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# COUNTRY LIFE

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## PERSONAL

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**OTHER PROPERTY AND ADVERTISING.** PAGE 3



# COUNTRY LIFE

VOL. XCIV. No. 2431.

AUGUST 20, 1943

## KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

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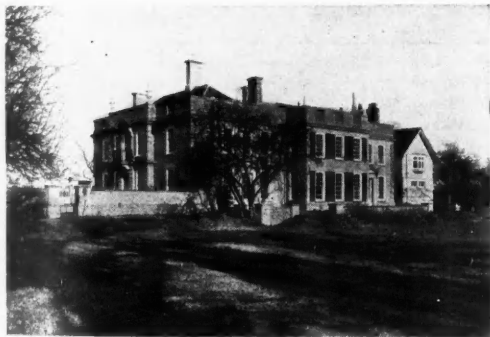
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Main electricity. Good water supply (pumped by engine). Septic tank drainage.

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5 paddocks with South aspect and 3 other fields (now partly under cultivation).

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Preliminary Announcement.

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About 184 Acres of arable pasture and woodland, with VACANT POSSESSION of the major portion.



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Telegrams: Galleries, Wesdo, London



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THE EXTENSIVE WOODLANDS  
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To be offered FOR SALE by AUCTION (unless  
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at 2.30 p.m.

Particulars and Plan (price 2/- each) of the Auctioneers:  
JACKSON STOPS & STAFF, 8, Hanover Street, London,  
W.1 (Tel.: Mayfair 3316/7), and at Northampton,  
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Solicitors: Messrs. WATSON & CO., 101, Leadenhall  
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Land Agent: G. R. FOX, Esq., Upton House, Estate  
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By direction of Lady Morshead's Trustees.

"TREGADDICK,"

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Bodmin 5 miles.

### SUPERBLY BUILT CORNISH COUNTRY HOUSE

Containing: 3 reception, 10 principal bedrooms, servants' quarters, lodge.

EXCELLENT FISHING AND SHOOTING.

10 ACRES (more Land available)

Full particulars of JACKSON STOPS, Cirencester. (Tel.: 334/5)

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### FOR SALE BY AUCTION EARLY IN SEPTEMBER DUNTISBOURNE LEER, nr. CIRENCESTER THE DELIGHTFUL SMALL COTSWOLD

PROPERTIES known as

BARNFIELD COTTAGE (with 6¼ Acres of Land)  
(VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION)

and

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Grosvenor 3121  
(3 lines)

## WINKWORTH & CO.

48, CURZON STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON, W.1

### SUSSEX

A mile from a railway station, 2 miles from a small town, and under 10 miles from  
Leves.

#### AN ATTRACTIVE OLD RESIDENCE



Restored and modernised just  
before the war, occupying a  
lovely position with good views.  
3 reception rooms, excellent  
domestic offices (including staff  
sitting room and pantry), 6 bed  
and dressing rooms, 2 bath-  
rooms.

Main electricity. Central  
heating. Fitted basins in 3  
bedrooms. Garage. Total area is

20 ACRES

including kitchen garden, pad-  
dock and woodland.

FOR SALE PRICE FREEHOLD £6,000 (Usual Valuations)

Owner's Agents: WINKWORTH & CO., 48, Curzon Street, Mayfair, London, W.1.

### FREEHOLD HOTEL IN 27½ ACRES

INCLUDING THE WHOLE OF THE EQUIPMENT AS A GOING CONCERN.

SITUATED NEAR A TOWN IN WILTS AND WITHIN A SHORT WALK OF A HALL. The accommodation includes suite of reception rooms, including billiards room and  
ballroom, 35 bedrooms and 8 bathrooms. Cottage, lodge and garages. Main electric light. Unlimited water. 2 "Aga" cookers in the kitchen. THE GROUNDS INCLUDE A  
HARD TENNIS COURT, A GRASS COURT, KITCHEN GARDEN WITH 2 GLASSHOUSES, ALL EXTENDING TO 4½ ACRES AND ADJOINING ARE 23 ACRES OF  
WOODLAND.—Detailed particulars of: Messrs. WINKWORTH & CO., 48, Curzon Street, Mayfair, London, W.1, who will make the necessary appointment to view on application.

### SUFFOLK

Between Saxmundham and Beccles, near a railway station, small town, Post Office and  
shops.

#### ATTRACTIVE COUNTRY RESIDENCE FOR SALE (FREEHOLD)

Containing: 8 bed and dressing  
rooms, 2 bathrooms, and (in  
addition) 4 rooms which can  
be used or not as required.  
Outer and inner halls, lavatory  
with cloakroom, 3 reception  
rooms, and excellent domestic  
offices, including servants' hall.  
Electric light. Main water.  
Central heating. 2 excellent  
garages for 2 cars. Cottage.  
Laundry.

THE GROUNDS are very attractive  
and well timbered and  
of old-world character. Excel-  
lent kitchen garden with range  
of glass, and grass field.

IN ALL ABOUT 10 ACRES

PRICE FREEHOLD 3,600

Particulars and Order to View of the Agents: Messrs. WINKWORTH & CO., 48, Curzon  
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### FOR SALE WITH POSSESSION



# KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

*Suitable for Private Hotel or Nursing Home.*

## SOUTH CORNWALL COAST



Penzance 5 miles. Overlooking a beautiful cove.

### CLIFF HOUSE, Lamorna

Stone-built house containing: 3 reception rooms, 15 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms. Company's electric light.

### Cliff Garden of 3 ACRES

To be offered FOR SALE by AUCTION at the WESTERN HOTEL, PENZANCE, on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, at 3 p.m. (unless previously sold). (Particulars 1/- each.)



Solicitors: Messrs. Hasties, 65, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.2. Auctioneers: Mr. W. H. CORNISH, 23, River Street, Truro, Cornwall; Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1.

## IN A LOVELY PART OF THE HOME COUNTIES. ADJOINING A GOLF COURSE

On bus route to station with service to Town in an hour. High up with extensive views. AN EXCEPTIONALLY WELL-APPOINTED MODERN RESIDENCE in period style, built of old mellowed materials and containing old oak beams and panelling. Lofty hall, cloakroom, 3 reception rooms, garden room, 6 principal bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, maids' suite of 2 bedrooms and bathroom, compact domestic offices.

Central heating throughout. Co.'s electricity, gas and water. Modern drainage.

Double garage with flat over. Small house adjoining available (let).

DELIGHTFUL GROUNDS with lawns, herbaceous borders, rhododendrons, rose and rock gardens, hard tennis court, kitchen and wild garden.

### ABOUT 6 ACRES

### TO BE SOLD

Agents: Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. (40,568)

## IN THE CREAM OF THE SHIRES

6 miles from a Town and Station. On a main bus route.

### FIRST-CLASS HUNTING RESIDENCE

standing 500 ft. above sea level and enjoying lovely views.

The accommodation comprises 3 reception rooms, 10 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms and usual domestic offices, including housekeeper's room.

Main Electric light. Central heating. Excellent water supply.



Brick and tiled stabling. 12 loose boxes. Garages for several cars.

### About 22 ACRES

of grassland.

Excellent kitchen garden. Tennis court.

### TO BE SOLD

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## IN A SECLUDED SPOT 25 MILES WEST OF LONDON

*Away from the river but quite close to Boulton's Lock.*

### FOR SALE

### A BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED HOUSE

IN FIRST-CLASS CONDITION.

Excellent accommodation on 2 floors only. A most pleasing hall with inglenook, 4 reception rooms, 15 bed and dressing rooms, 5 well-fitted bathrooms.

CENTRAL HEATING. ELECTRIC LIGHT. MAIN WATER.

GARAGES FOR 7. COW-HOUSE. STABLE.

### 12 ACRES OF GARDENS AND PARK-LIKE MEADOW LAND

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OXFORD  
4637/8.

## JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK

OXFORD & CHIPPING NORTON

CHIPPING  
NORTON  
39

### A PROPERTY WHICH WILL APPEAL

TO THOSE REQUIRING A MODERNISED PERIOD HOUSE OF CONSIDERABLE CHARM.

*Situated in a picturesque little Berkshire village, in a district noted for its cherry orchards, from which London may be reached daily, if desired, from either of two stations, situated within a 2-miles' radius.*

### FRESH IN THE MARKET

CHARMING ONE-STORIED ELIZABETHAN RESIDENCE, constructed of mellowed brick (of partial attractive herringbone design) with exposed oak half-timbering, old tiled roof and latticed windows, the whole being in excellent condition. 3 sitting rooms, little study, 5 bedrooms (3 basins, h. & c.), dressing room (with basin, h. & c.), modern bathroom, box room. Main electric light and power. Main water supply. Modern drainage. Telephone. LARGE OLD BARN CONVERTED TO GARAGE AND STORE ROOM. SMALL FLOWER GARDEN (full-time gardener unnecessary).

### PRICE FREEHOLD £4,500

Sole Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, Oxford.

### DOAR'S HILL—500 FT. UP

*Oxford City 4 miles.*

FINE MODERN RESIDENCE. 4 sitting rooms, 8 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms. Main electric light and power. Main water supply. Telephone. Central heating. 5 modern cottages. Garage. Well laid out grounds. Orchard, paddock, etc. In all about 11 ACRES.

### FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, Oxford.

### WORCESTERSHIRE

ATTRACTIVE RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ESTATE, comprising an Historically Interesting and Picturesque XIVth Century Residence. 3 sitting rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. With ample outbuildings, 2 cottages and OVER 171 ACRES of good land. Main electric light and power. Ample water supply. Telephone. Central heating.

### PRICE FREEHOLD £14,000.

(OPEN TO OFFER.)

Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, Oxford.

### BERKSHIRE

FOR SALE (WITH POST-WAR VACANT POSSESSION). At present let furnished for duration at nearly £1,000 p.a. ENCHANTING TUDOR RESIDENCE, rich in period features. Lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, 9 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms. Main electric light and power. Main water supply. Central heating. Telephone. Garages. Cottage. About 4 ACRES.

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Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, Oxford.



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6, ARLINGTON STREET, ST. JAMES'S, S.W.1

Regent 8222 (15 lines)

Telegrams: "Solanist, Piccy, London."



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In delightful surroundings. 8 miles from Tunbridge Wells. 2 miles main line station.  
**A CHARMING COUNTRY RESIDENCE (Part XVIII Century)**



In lovely sylvan setting.  
Southern aspect.

4 reception rooms, billiards room, winter garden, 2 staircases, 12 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, servants' hall, good cellarage.

Company's water.  
Electric light.  
Central heating.

Garages. Stabling.  
2 picturesque cottages.

Small stream.  
Moat of nearly one acre stocked with fish.

EXCEPTIONALLY WELL-TIMBERED GROUNDS, WALLED KITCHEN GARDEN, NUTTERY, PASTURE AND WOODLANDS, IN ALL OVER 43 ACRES **PRICE £8,500 FREEHOLD**

Particulars from:  
HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street, S.W.1. (Tel.: REG. 8222.) (K.48,501)

## SUSSEX

About 2 miles from the old-world village of Mayfield. Charming situation, 450 ft. above sea level and enjoying extensive views.

### PICTURESQUE TUDOR FARMHOUSE

ATTRACTIVELY RESTORED AND MODERNISED BUT RETAINING ITS OLD-WORLD CHARM.



3 reception rooms, sun lounge, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, good domestic offices. Companies' electricity and water.

Central heating.  
Garage. Farmery.  
Bungalow.

Delightful garden with tennis lawn, orchard, paddock and several acres of meadow and woodland.

**24½ ACRES IN ALL**

**PRICE FREEHOLD £7,500**

VACANT POSSESSION OF MAIN RESIDENCE.

**THE BUNGALOW AND FARMERY ARE LET AT £52 PER ANNUM.**

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## MIDDLESEX

Pleasant situation overlooking Bush Hill Golf Course. Close to station with fast service of trains to the City and West End.

### A COMPACT SMALL MODERN RESIDENCE

FULL OF OLD OAK AND OTHER PERIOD FEATURES.

Hall, 2 reception rooms, sun parlour, 3 bedrooms (2 with wash-basins), modern bathroom, and kitchen.

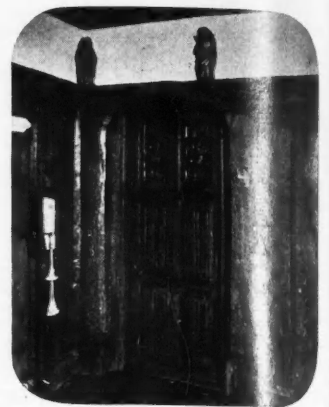
All main services. Garage.

OLD ENGLISH GARDEN.

**PRICE FREEHOLD £3,000**

AN UNUSUAL PROPERTY OF SPECIAL APPEAL TO LOVERS OF THE ANTIQUE.

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## CHISLEHURST

Pleasant position facing Petts Wood and within easy reach of the station, etc.

### MODERN RESIDENCE

OF PLEASING ELEVATION IN EXCELLENT DECORATIVE REPAIR.

3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 2 half-tiled bathrooms, modern kitchen

All main services. Radiators.

**GARDEN OF ABOUT ½ ACRE**

**PRICE FREEHOLD £3,750**

**JUST ON THE MARKET**

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PRUNE AND GREATMOOR FARMS between Bicester and Aylesbury. 427 ACRES. of highly fertile land (386 Arables), nearly all Tithe Free. Modernised House (2 sitting; 5 bed, tiled bath, central heating, "Aga" cooker, electric light, main water). Ample and well-arranged buildings. Corn drying and straw pulping plants. 2 smaller Homesteads with Cottages, etc., which Meers.

**ADKIN, BELCHER & BOWEN**  
will offer for SALE BY AUCTION by direction of N. B. Duck, Esq., on AUGUST 25, at THE BULL'S HEAD HOTEL, AYLESBURY, at 3 p.m. With Possession. Farm Stock at Valuation at Buyers' option, including Combine Harvester, Pick-up Baler, Tractors and essential Tractor Implements. Particulars with Plan of the Auctioneers, Abingdon, Berks (Tel. 25), and Wantage (Tel. 48).

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LONG SUTTON. Excellent Residential FARM with attractive Georgian Farmhouse. 3 reception, 5 bed, bath. Excellent buildings and 45 Acres Land. Also 2 cottages. Pasture and arable lands. Area of whole 164 Acres. To be Sold in Lots. Vacant Possession. AUCTION SALE, AUGUST 24, 1943.  
**F. L. HUNT & SONS,**  
AUCTIONEERS, LANGPORT, SOMERSET.

## TO LET

**SUSSEX (EAST).** TO LET FURNISHED, September, Old Cottage. 3 reception, 5 bedrooms, 2 bath. "Aga" cooker. Garden, orchard. 8 gns. weekly.—Box 471.

## SHOOTING

**HERTS.** Shooting to let. About 1,000 Acres of partridge and hare shoot, near Baldock. Apply—"Hill Crest," Baldock, Herts.

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**WITHIN HOUR'S RAIL LONDON.** Urgently wanted. Unfurnished House, option purchase. 4/6 bed.—"Mrs. L. O., c/o TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1.

**100-MILE RADIUS LONDON.** Artistic couple require Gentleman's Small-holding, with Farmery. Will pay high price for exact requirements. Approximate size: 2 reception, 5 bedrooms, modern conveniences. Charm and seclusion essential. Or similar place with more land to let off.—Box 482.

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**CARDIGANSHIRE.** For Sale as a going concern, with possession, 259 Acres (75 Acres ploughable rough grazing), new outbuildings, modernised farmhouse 4 bedrooms, annexe for balliff, 2 bedrooms, separate h. & c. On bus route seaside ½ hour. 3½ miles nearest market town. Full range tractor implements available. Offers to THE TIVYSIDE FARMING & TRADING CO., LTD., Cardigan.

**CHESHIRE.** Derbyshire. Staffordshire border, 23 miles Manchester. Hill Country Dairy Farm of 60 Acres. FOR SALE BY PRIVATE CONTRACT. Excellent stone-built modern Residence, containing: Lounge hall, lounge, dining room, billiards room, 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Modern farm buildings. Workman's cottage. Vacant Possession. £7,000. Would sell stock, etc., as going concern, if desired. Apply—GEO. BRAN, 10/16, Great King Street, Macclesfield (Tel. 2829).

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**BUCKS, SURREY, SUSSEX or BERKS** (preferably). Stable accommodation wanted for about 6 horses. 2/3 fields in vicinity, with cottage attached or near by. Write—Box 499.

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**SURREY and SUSSEX.** TREVOR ESTATES, LTD., have genuine Clients waiting to purchase suitable properties. Please send full details to them, in confidence, to—9, Canborne Rd., Sutton, Surrey. (Tel.: Vigilant 2212)

**WARWICK, LEDBURY or BERKELEY HUNTS.** Farm WANTED, with Gentleman's Residence. 5/7 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms. 150 Acres upwards. Away from road and permanent aerodrome.—YOUNG & GILLING, Estate Agents, Cheltenham.

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LONDON, W.1

# CURTIS & HENSON

Grosvenor 3131 (3 lines)  
Established 1875

## HERTS AND BUCKS BORDERS. 600ft. UP ON CHILTERN HILLS

5 miles from Tring Station. 30 miles from Marble Arch. ¼ mile from village and bus service.

### A XVth CENTURY HOUSE

Recently restored and modernised, with every possible luxury and convenience. Galleried lounge hall, large sitting room, dining room, staff sitting room, 3 principal bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 guests' rooms, 2 maids' rooms.

Companies' water and electric light. Central heating. Cottage, with 5 rooms and bathroom. Stabling and 2 garages.

**MATURED GROUNDS**, with ancient beech trees, rock and water gardens, orchard and kitchen garden. Excellent riding and walking.

Private golf course.

### ABOUT 10 ACRES FOR SALE FREEHOLD

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Agent  
3304

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In a much favoured district, a few miles from Cirencester.  
**DELIGHTFUL STONE-BUILT RESIDENCE OF COTSWOLD TYPE**

4 reception, 11 bed and dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms.  
Main electricity and water. Central heating.

#### Model Farmery.

Delightful gardens, excellent pasture, in all

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The Property is at present under requisition by the War Department.

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### COLCHESTER AND HALSTEAD

In delightful country near to a village and within 4 miles of a main line station.

**AN ATTRACTIVE MODERNISED COUNTRY HOUSE**

with 3 reception, 7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.  
Main electricity and water. Central heating.  
Garage. Stabling. Cottage.

Charming well-matured gardens, kitchen garden, orchard, etc., in all

### ABOUT 3 ACRES

For Sale at a Moderate Price.

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (17,362)

### NORTHANTS

In a secluded position in the heart of rural country, yet within convenient reach of Northampton.

### PICTURESQUE SMALL MODERN HOUSE

Brick built with thatched roof and containing: Hall, 2 reception rooms, 3 bedrooms, bathroom.

Company's electricity. Estate water supply.

2 Garages. Outbuildings.

The Property stands in a small well-timbered park with river frontage affording boating and fishing.

### PRICE £3,000 WITH ABOUT 12 ACRES

Full details from: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (M.2377)

### HENLEY-ON-THAMES

IN A BEAUTIFUL POSITION COMMANDING PANORAMIC VIEWS OVER ONE OF THE PRETTIEST REACHES OF THE THAMES.

### AN UP-TO-DATE HOUSE

with 3 large reception rooms, 8 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms.

Main electricity and water. Garage.

Terraced gardens and lawn sloping down to river with landing stage.

### FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Full details from: OSBORN & MERCER. (M.2362)

### BUCKS

Between Aylesbury and Buckingham, convenient for Main Line Station to London.

Sheltered situation in rural country.—For Sale  
**AN UP-TO-DATE COUNTRY HOUSE OF CHARACTER**

Main electricity and water. Central heating. Lounge hall, 3 reception, dozen bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.  
**Hunter Stabling. Farmery. 3 Cottages.**

Very Pleasant Gardens. Excellent Pasture.

Hard Tennis Court. Squash Court.

### 24 ACRES

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER. Inspected and highly recommended. (16,730)

### ON OUTSKIRTS OF WILTSHIRE VILLAGE

In a quiet position, approached by a drive over 100 yards in length from a by-road and near to a bus route.

### AN ATTRACTIVE GEORGIAN HOUSE

On 2 floors only and in excellent order. Hall, 2 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, well-equipped bathroom. Main services. Central heating.

2 Garages. Extensive Stabling. Outbuildings. Delightful matured gardens, walled kitchen garden, orchard, paddock, etc., in all

### ABOUT 5 ACRES

### FOR SALE FREEHOLD

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LONDON, W.1.

## RALPH PAY & TAYLOR

Grosvenor  
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### BERKSHIRE.

### CLOSE TO THE BEAUTIFUL FINCHAMPSTEAD RIDGES

Triangle between Basingstoke, Reading and Bagshot. On bus route. 2½ miles Station.

### COMPACT MINIATURE ESTATE

21 OR 121 ACRES

**UNUSUALLY CHARMING QUEEN ANNE STYLE RESIDENCE OF CHARACTER AND DISTINCTION**

PLANNED FOR LABOUR-SAVING AND EASY WORKING. Lounge, 3 reception rooms, 9 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms. Main electricity and water. Central heating. Stabling. Garages. COTTAGES.

MATURED GARDENS, LOVELY TREES, PADDOCKS, ETC.  
**FREEHOLD JUST FOR SALE WITH 21 ACRES (OR MIGHT BE LET)**

HOME FARM (100 ACRES), with good House, Cottage and Buildings (let at £109 per annum) can also be purchased.

Highly recommended by: RALPH PAY & TAYLOR, as above.



TOTTENHAM COURT RD., W.1  
(Euston 7000)

## MAPLE & Co., LTD.

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valued for Insurance, Probate, etc.

### FURNITURE SALES

Conducted in Town and Country

APPLY—MAPLE & CO., 5, GRAFTON STREET, OLD BOND STREET, W.1.

### BUCKS

### LOVELY CHALFONT ST. GILES

### FOR SALE

**A CHARMING LITTLE PROPERTY**, comprising: PICTURESQUE HOUSE and a nice GARDEN of about 1 ACRE. It contains: Lounge, dining room, 5-6 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms, spacious kitchen and offices, fitted basins in bedrooms. Garage. Outbuildings. Grounds with spacious lawn, rose garden, good kitchen garden. Electric light and power. 5 minutes' walk from station. Close to buses.

Highly recommended by: MAPLE & Co., as above.

### HARROW-ON-THE-HILL

19 minutes by train from Town.

**FOR SALE. A REALLY ATTRACTIVE HOUSE** on 2 floors, tastefully decorated and having all modern comforts. Nice hall with radiator, very fine lounge (27 ft. by 15 ft.), dining room (18 ft. by 14 ft.), compact offices (with super "Kookajole" range, etc.), 4 bedrooms (2 with fitted basins), very fine bathroom, boxroom, heated linen cupboard. Spacious garage. Outbuildings. Good garden with full-size tennis court. **PRICE £3,500.**

Strongly recommended by: MAPLE & Co., 5, Grafton Street, Old Bond Street, W.1.

Grosvenor 1553  
(4 lines)

# GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS

(ESTABLISHED 1778)

25, MOUNT ST., GROSVENOR SQ., W.1

Hobart Place, Eaton Sq.,  
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## SECLUDED POSITION IN SURREY

1½ miles Station. Few minutes of Golf Course.

### BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED RESIDENCE IN 22 ACRES OF LOVELY GROUNDS AND WOODLAND

13 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, modern offices. All main services.

Central heating. Garage. Stabling. Cottage.

FINE TILED SWIMMING POOL.

2 FIRST-CLASS TENNIS COURTS.

Recommended by: GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (C.1571)

## FINE GEORGIAN HOUSE IN WILTS

Near Hants border. Fishing and shooting in district. Perfectly secluded.

12 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms. Electric light. Good water. Oil heating.

GARAGES. STABLING. 5 COTTAGES. HOME FARM. GOOD GROUNDS. PARK AND WOODLAND.

137 ACRES

POSSESSION OF HOUSE AFTER WAR

FARM AND LAND LET

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(3851)

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## FAREBROTHER, ELLIS & CO.

(Established 1799)

AUCTIONEERS. CHARTERED SURVEYORS. LAND AGENTS.

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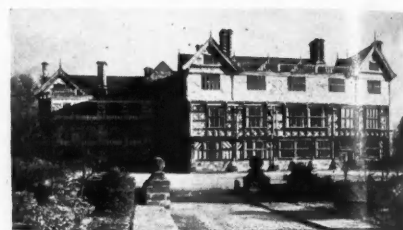
### BROUGHTON HALL, STAFFORDSHIRE



1637



1837



1937

### TO BE SOLD AS AN INVESTMENT

LET ON LEASE FOR A TERM OF 21 YEARS FROM THE 8th JANUARY, 1940

LESSEE BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR REPAIRS AND RATES, AT THE LOW RENT OF

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AND OCCUPIED BY A WELL ESTABLISHED BOYS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL.

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SPECIALISTS IN THE DISPOSAL OF COUNTRY ESTATES AND HOUSES  
SACKVILLE HOUSE, 40, PICCADILLY, W.1. REGENT 2481

### NEAR FAMOUS HANTS YACHTING CENTRE

Between Emsworth and Forest of Bere.

**BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY HOUSE.** 4 reception, 11 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Central heating. Main services. Garage. 2 cottages. Charming gardens and 42 ACRES. £9,750.—Sole Agents: F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481. Or KING & KING, 5, Clarendon Road, Southsea.

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Triangle Northampton, Newport Pagnell, Bedford.

**ONLY £3,000 FREEHOLD**, with 12 ACRES and river fishing. House (small and easily run), thatched cottage character (2 reception, 3 bedrooms, bathroom). Main electricity. Grounds beautifully timbered.—F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

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1 mile station. Bus service to Henley.

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Between Oxford and Newbury. 1½ miles from a well-known Market Town.

**AN OLD "POUND HOUSE,"** restored and modernised. 3 reception, 6 bedrooms, bathroom. Ancient barn and courtyard, with farm buildings, gardener's cottage, productive orchards and grassland. Pretty old-world garden, tennis court and kitchen garden, 15 ACRES. **FREEHOLD £7,000.**—F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

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On famous St. George's Hill.

**ONE OF THE MOST ARTISTIC MODERN HOMES** of character and distinction. Perfect condition. Luxuriously equipped with every conceivable labour-saving device. 3 reception, sun loggia, 5 bedrooms, 1 dressing room (all fitted basins), 3 beautiful bathrooms, model kitchen quarters (white tiled throughout). Central heating. All mains. 2 garages. Exquisite gardens. 2 ACRES. £8,000 (with Possession).—F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

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**A HOME OF DISTINCTION AND CHARM.** 3 reception, 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Central heating. Main services. Garage. Stabling. Exquisite gardens and 18 ACRES. £6,000.—F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

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**CHARMING HOUSE** (built 1934). 2 reception, 5 bedrooms (fitted basins), 2 bathrooms. "Aga" cooker. Central heating. Electric light. Garage. Stabling. Bungalow. Pretty garden intersected by stream. 14 ACRES. £5,000.—F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

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Chalfont Station 1 mile.

**CHARMING RESIDENCE.** 3 reception, loggia, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. All mains. Garage. Beautiful gardens and 5 ACRES. £6,000. Also cottage if required.—F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

184, BROMPTON ROAD,  
LONDON, S.W.3

## BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY

Kensington  
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### HEREFORD-WORCESTER BORDERS GENTLEMAN'S SMALL RESIDENTIAL ESTATE COMMANDING FINE VIEWS AND AFFORDING GOOD SHOOTING AND FISHING 106 ACRES

**CHARMING FARMHOUSE**, perfect order, 3 reception, 6 bedrooms (fitted basins), bathroom. Electric light and all conveniences. Drive approach. Ornamental gardens, well timbered. Excellent farmbuildings. 2 cottages.

VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD MOST MODERATE PRICE

BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY, as above.

### HERE INDEED IS AN OPPORTUNITY! BUT IMMEDIATE INSPECTION ESSENTIAL TO SECURE GENTLEMAN'S FARM OF 50 ACRES, BETWEEN NEWBURY AND BASINGSTOKE

Delightfully situated with views over miles of lovely countryside.

**PICTURESQUE, CENTURIES OLD, CAREFULLY RESTORED, TUDOR OAK-BEAMED FARMHOUSE. EXCELLENT BUILDINGS. THIS IS A GRADE A FARM.** Illness is the sole reason for the property being on offer.

IMMEDIATE SALE BEING DESIRED, IT IS OFFERED FREEHOLD AT THE BARGAIN PRICE OF ONLY £3,000

FIRST DEPOSIT SECURES. VIEW AT ONCE.

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(10 lines).

By direction of the Executors of the late Sir Charles Hyde, Bart.

## BORDERS OF HAMPSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE

Fordingbridge 4 miles, Salisbury 12 miles, Bournemouth 25 miles.

With Vacant Possession of Land and Buildings at Michaelmas, 1943, and of the House and most of the remainder of the property at January 1, 1944.

THE IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY AND TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT

### WHITSBURY MANOR FARM

ABOUT 1,120 ACRES

Now mainly arable, but including a downland gallop 1½ miles in length.

### ATTRACTIVE MODERNISED MANOR FARMHOUSE OF GEORGIAN CHARACTER

3 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms (most with basins) and 2 bathrooms. Main electric light and power. Central heating. Excellent estate water supply from two sources.

3 SETS OF FARM BUILDINGS.

12 COTTAGES AND A BUNGALOW.

To be offered FOR SALE BY AUCTION in 1 LOT (unless previously sold privately) on AUGUST 25, 1943, at 2.30 p.m., at the LONDON AUCTION MART, E.C.4, by JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1 (Tel.: Mayfair 6341), from whom Sale Particulars and Plans can be obtained (price 1/- each prepaid).

Vendors' Solicitors: NOEL G. HYDE, 19, Foregate Street, Worcester, and Messrs. PINSENT & Co., 6, Bennets Hill, Birmingham 2.

## WOULD YOU SELL YOUR HOUSE IF AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD PRICE WERE OFFERED?

JOHN D. WOOD & CO. have unlimited buyers  
for Compact Small Houses in all parts of the  
country, but especially in the Home Counties.

The demand is most keen for 5-7 bedrooms, 2 or 3 sitting  
rooms, and from One to Twenty Acres of Land at prices  
ranging from £4,000 up to about £10,000

VACANT POSSESSION WITHIN 12 MONTHS IS REQUIRED IN MOST CASES

If interested, please send particulars and photographs (most important) to 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1., marked "A. F. H."

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## LINCOLNSHIRE

Between Grantham and Stamford.

### THE WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL ESTATE

Bourne 5 miles, Stamford 8½ miles, Little Bytham with Station 2½ miles, Grantham 17 miles.

### AN EXCELLENT AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT

COMPRISING:

	Acres.	Rent.
HOME FARM AND LINGS FARM ... ..	562	£540 0 0
PALACE FARM ... ..	135	£138 0 0
TOTAL AREA 697 ACRES - - - -		TOTAL RENT £678

### THE BOOTHBY PAGNELL ESTATE

Grantham 5½ miles, Stamford 14 miles, Great Ponton Station 2 miles.

COMPRISING:

### FOUR FINE DAIRYING AND CORN-GROWING FARMS

	Acres.	Rent.
HOME FARM ... ..	269	£302 12 6
DAIRY FARM ... ..	294	£245 0 0
HILL FARM ... ..	200	£241 16 0
BRACKENBURY'S FARM ... ..	252	£184 0 0

COTTAGES, ACCOMMODATION LAND AND WATER RENTS, IN ALL ABOUT

1,084 ACRES - - - - TOTAL RENTS £1,090

FOR SALE by AUCTION as a WHOLE or in LOTS (if not sold privately) by Messrs. JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1 (Tel.: Mayfair 6341), from whom plans and particulars may shortly be obtained (Price 2/6 each).

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23, MOUNT ST.,  
GROSVENOR SQ., LONDON, W.1

## WILSON & CO.

Grosvenor  
1441

### EARLY GEORGIAN HOUSE IN HAMPSHIRE

Easy reach of Winchester and close to village, with bus service.

3 reception rooms, 10 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Period features. Main water and electricity. Radiators. 2 cottages.

**25 ACRES. FOR SALE NOW WITH POSSESSION AFTER THE WAR.**

Agents: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

### WINCHESTER AND BASINGSTOKE

AVAILABLE PRIVATELY FOR SALE (with possession after the war), a perfect little ESTATE of about **200 ACRES**, with lovely old QUEEN ANNE HOUSE of great character. 11 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception. Close to old-world village.

**PRICE £14,000**

Agents: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

### WANTED

IMMEDIATE POSSESSION NOT ESSENTIAL. A HOUSE OF CHARACTER. PREFERABLY GEORGIAN TYPE, with 12 bedrooms, 3-4 bathrooms, etc. 2-3 cottages. Home farm, if possible. and 150-250 Acres. Hants, Wilts, Glos, Berks, West Sussex, etc.

Likely places will be immediately inspected and **GOOD PRICE PAID FOR THE RIGHT PLACE.**

Particulars and photos to: WILSON & Co. (Ref. G. N.), as above.

### UP TO £5,000 OFFERED

FOR AN ATTRACTIVE SMALL HOUSE. PREFERABLY OLD, with 5-7 bedrooms and, say, 4-10 Acres. Main services. Cottage, if possible. Any nice district within 150 miles S., S.W., or W. of London. Can wait 6 months for possession. Replies to: WILSON & Co. (Ref. H.), as above.

### BEAUTIFUL PART OF SUSSEX

500 ft. up. Glorious views. 1½ miles from small Market Town.

**CHOICE ESTATE OF 83 ACRES**, with remarkably beautiful House set within perfect old gardens. 13 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fine hall, 4 reception. Small farm. 5 cottages. Garages, etc. **FOR SALE AT A BARGAIN PRICE.** With possession of the House after the war.

Good income meantime.

WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

### SURREY

Near Guildford.

**XVIIIth CENTURY HOUSE**, in lovely country. Facing South in its estate of **100 ACRES**. 13 bedrooms (most with basins), 4 bathrooms, 4 reception. Every convenience. 3 cottages. Lovely gardens and park. **FOR SALE AT BARGAIN PRICE**, as investment or for future occupation with income of about **£500 p.a.**

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Sidmouth  
41

## SANDERS'

ESTATE AGENTS, SIDMOUTH

### SIDMOUTH

A FINE GEORGIAN RESIDENCE IN PERFECT CONDITION, WITH GROUNDS OF **5 ACRES**

OFFERED FOR POST-WAR OCCUPATION

5 entertaining rooms, 9 bedrooms (all main rooms face South), 2 bathrooms, good domestic offices. ALL ON 2 FLOORS.

Central heating. All main services. Garage and useful outbuildings.

Finely restored and admittedly one of the most pleasing properties in this favoured locality.

**FREEHOLD £10,500**

### EAST DEVON

In beautiful country, close to a small village, 10 miles inland and within 6 miles of 3 market towns.

#### A TUDOR GEM

Built in stone, with brown tile roof and having a wealth of old oak panelling and beams. Restored carefully and in perfect condition.

3 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, excellent offices ("Esse" cooker). Large enclosed sun loggia and a rebuilt thatched barn, which contains garage and engine-house, with bedroom above.

**5 ACRES**

SURROUNDING THE HOUSE. FISHING CLOSE AT HAND.

**A REAL BARGAIN AT £5,000**

### EAST DEVON

#### A BEAUTIFUL SMALL MANOR HOUSE

WITH ABOUT **30 ACRES** OF GARDENS, WOODLANDS AND MOORLAND.

Within easy reach of Sidmouth.



Dating prior to the Norman Conquest, this property has been perfectly restored and is composed, to a considerable extent, of the original structure.

3 reception rooms, large studio, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, perfect domestic offices.

Garages and outbuildings. Electricity. Good water and drainage services.

**FREEHOLD £10,500**

### DEVON

Within easy reach of Exeter and Torquay and in beautiful pastoral surroundings, on the outskirts of a small town.

#### A RESIDENCE OF CLASSICAL DESIGN

With lodge, cottage and some

#### 25 ACRES OF MAGNIFICENT PARK

GARDENS AND SHRUBBERIES, WITH HARD TENNIS COURT, MAZE AND SUNKEN GARDEN.

3 entertaining rooms, oak-panelled hall with fine oak staircase, ballroom and billiards room, 12 bedrooms 3 bathrooms, fine range of offices.

GARAGES, STABLING, ETC.

THIS PROPERTY IS REGARDED AS ONE OF THE MOST DELIGHTFUL MEDIUM-SIZED COUNTRY HOUSES IN THE SOUTH-WEST.

It is at present under requisition and is offered subject to such occupation at the

**LOW PRICE OF £12,000 FREEHOLD**

GUILDFORD  
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## HEWETT & LEE

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By Order of His Grace the Duke of Wellington and the Trustees of his Parliamentary Estates.

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Between Reading and Basingstoke.

#### THE VALUABLE AGRICULTURAL, RESIDENTIAL AND SPORTING ESTATES:

#### EWHRST PARK, WOLVERTON AND TADLEY

In the Parishes of Ewhurst, Wolverton, Hannington, Kingsclere, Monk Sherborne, Tadley, Baughurst and Wotton St. Laurence, extending to about

**6,240 ACRES**

comprising:

#### THE WELL-APPOINTED GEORGIAN RESIDENCE: EWHRST PARK

#### THE GEORGIAN RESIDENCE: WOLVERTON PARK

**14 IMPORTANT AND DESIRABLE FARMS, RANGING FROM 58 ACRES TO 870 ACRES. 35 SMALL HOUSES AND COUNTRY COTTAGES. VARIOUS SMALL HOLDINGS. 3 LICENSED HOUSES. 1,200 ACRES OF WELL-TIMBERED WOODLANDS.** To be offered **FOR SALE BY AUCTION IN LOTS**, by Messrs. HEWETT & LEE, in the TOWN HALL, READING, on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1943, in two Sessions, commencing at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Solicitors: Messrs. FARRER & Co., 66, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2. Auctioneers: Messrs. HEWETT & LEE, 144, High Street, Guildford, Surrey (Tel. 2050/1), from whom illustrated Sale Particulars (price 5/- per copy) may be obtained.

## WELLESLEY-SMITH & CO.,

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### SMALL BUT EXQUISITE TUDOR GEM

Amidst some of the loveliest country



**BETWEEN NEWBURY & READING**  
Restored regardless of expense and having every modern luxury. Square hall with walls in old French tapestry, dining room completely panelled in old, linen-fold oak panelling, beautiful lounge, modern kitchen, cloakroom, 4 bedrooms and dressing room, 2 bathrooms. Central heating throughout. "Aga" cooker. Basins (h. & c.) in bedrooms. Co.'s electricity and power. Garages for 2 or 3 cars. Fine old-world gardens and cherry orchards, under **4 Acres**

**FREEHOLD 5,000 GUINEAS**

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### £10,000 INCLUDING FURNITURE

### 14 ACRES

**ABOUT 1 HOUR WATERLOO.** 1 mile village, high ground. Southerly aspect. Delightful views. Architect-built Residence. 3 reception, 2 bathrooms, 1 bedroom (principal fitted h. & c.). Oak floors. Co.'s water and electricity. Telephone. Stabling. Garage. COTTAGE (let at £164 p.a.). Charming grounds, rhododendrons, azaleas, tennis court, kitchen garden, pasture and woodland. **AN EXCEPTIONALLY ATTRACTIVE OPPORTUNITY.** Inspected and recommended by TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1.

### £12,500 WITH 50 ACRES

### WOULD DIVIDE

**HANTS-WILTS** borders, near New Forest, on gravel. Charming old country Residence. South aspect, extensive views. Hall, cloakroom, 4 reception, 4 bathrooms, 10 bedrooms (fitted basins, h. & c.). Central heating. Main electricity and water. Parquet floors. Good stabling and garages. 2 GOOD COTTAGES, etc. **BEAUTIFULLY TIMBERED GROUNDS**, double tennis, water garden, walled kitchen garden, parklike pasture.—TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1.



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c.3

A SMALL HOUSE IN A  
BEAUTIFUL GARDENINEXPENSIVE TO MAINTAIN.  
50 minutes from Town.3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, etc.  
Electric light. Central heating. All modern  
conveniences.

Garage for 3 cars, 2 cottages. Useful outbuildings.

MATURED GARDENS, WOODLAND AND  
PADDOCK, IN ALL ABOUT

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## ABOUT 1½ MILES EXCLUSIVE TROUT FISHING. ALSO A 2-ACRE TROUT LAKE

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c.2

On the outskirts of a market town.

SUBSTANTIAL AND COMFORTABLE  
HOUSE3 reception rooms, 8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, maids'  
sitting room, etc.EXCELLENT WATER. MAIN ELECTRICITY.  
CENTRAL HEATING. 2 GARAGES. FARMHOUSE  
AND FARMERY.GARDENS AND GROUNDS AND TENNIS LAWN.  
ARABLE AND PASTURE HOME FARM IN ALL  
ABOUT 100 ACRESBOUNDED BY A RIVER PROVIDING THE  
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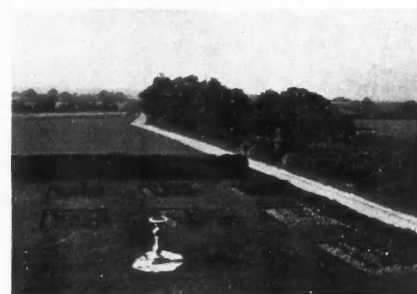
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With excellent views to the South.

Containing: Entrance hall, 4 reception, 9 bed and  
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3 bathrooms, offices.Company's water. Electric light. Central heating.  
Shooting lodge. 2 well-built cottages. Double garage.  
good outbuildings.INEXPENSIVE GROUNDS. Kitchen garden, etc.,  
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30 MINUTES CITY AND WEST END  
SEVENOAKS AND BROMLEY

c.4

Retired situation. Handy for buses and station.

ARCHITECT-DESIGNED RESIDENCE  
BUILT OF BEST MATERIALS, CAVITY WALLS,  
HAND-MADE TILES, ETC.Hall and cloakroom, 3 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms  
(h. & c. water), splendid bathroom, model offices.  
Brick-built garage. Air raid shelter.

ALL COMPANIES' MAIN SERVICES.

PARTIAL CENTRAL HEATING.

MOST PICTURESQUE GARDEN, ROCKERIES,  
ROSE AND KITCHEN GARDEN, TENNIS LAWN,  
ORCHARD. IN ALL ABOUT

1 ACRE. PRICE £4,000 FREEHOLD

IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.

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## UNDULATING PART OF SUSSEX [c.3]

In a healthy neighbourhood, convenient to a picturesque old village and about 9 miles from  
Tunbridge Wells.

## CHARMING ELIZABETHAN FARMHOUSE

3 reception, 6 bedrooms,  
2 bathrooms.

Main drainage.

Co.'s electric light and  
water.

Central heating.

Garage. Cottage.

Splendid gardens, also pad-  
dock, in all about

10½ ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

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## CHOICE PART OF SUSSEX COAST c.34

Select residential locality. Lawn sloping to sea front.

## MOST ARTISTIC RESIDENCE

Lounge, dining room, 7 bed-  
rooms, 2 bathrooms.

Modern drainage.

Co.'s electric light and  
water and other modern  
conveniences.

Garage for 2 cars.

Bathing hut.

Charming gardens with  
herbaceous borders, lawn  
and rockery.

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## STAFFORDSHIRE

*Situate in the triangle Stafford, Cannock and Wolverhampton. About 200 yards from main Stafford-Wolverhampton Road.*

### GEORGIAN RESIDENCE OF BRICK AND SLATE CONSTRUCTION.

5 bedrooms, 2 well-fitted bathrooms,  
3 reception rooms, maids' sitting room,  
complete domestic offices.

Main electricity. Companies' gas,  
water and drainage. Central heating.  
Garage. Stabling. 3 heated green-  
houses. 4 cottages.

High-walled kitchen garden, orchard,  
grass tennis court, parkland, about

**13 ACRES IN ALL**



THE COTTAGES ARE LET TO  
GOOD TENANTS AND PRODUCE  
A TOTAL OF £28 14s. 0d. PER  
ANNUM.

VACANT POSSESSION OF THE  
RESIDENCE WILL BE GIVEN ON  
COMPLETION OF THE PURCHASE.

ABOUT 15 MINUTES' WALK FROM  
THE RESIDENCE IS A SMALL  
FARM OF ABOUT 35 ACRES WITH  
USEFUL BUILDINGS. LET AT  
£83 10s. 0d. PER ANNUM.

**PRICE FOR THE WHOLE,  
£9,000 FREEHOLD**

For particulars apply: Fox & Sons, Land Agents, Bournemouth.

### FOR SALE

## SOUTHAMPTON OUTSKIRTS

### VERY PROFITABLE PARTLY DEVELOPED BUILDING ESTATE

READY FOR IMMEDIATE POST-WAR ACTIVITY.

### FREEHOLD

Main drainage, water, gas and electricity. Level. Some roads made and sewered.  
Large number of Houses already built and sold.

**ABOUT 300 PLOTS PLUS VALUABLE SHOP SITES AND  
3 GOOD COTTAGES**

**PRICE £21,000 FOR THE WHOLE**

USUAL SELLING VALUE ABOUT £120 PER SITE.

GENUINE BARGAIN.

Fox & Sons, Estate Agents, Bournemouth.

## NEW FOREST, HANTS

*Occupying a pleasant position and situated about 7 miles from Southampton. 1 1/2 miles  
from Cadnam and 1 1/4 miles from Lyndhurst Road Station.*

FOX & SONS are favoured with instructions to **SELL BY AUCTION** at the  
ROYAL HOTEL, CUMBERLAND PLACE, SOUTHAMPTON, on **TUE. DAY,**  
**AUGUST 31, 1943, at 3 p.m. precisely** (unless previously sold privately)

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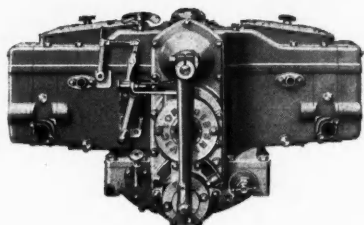
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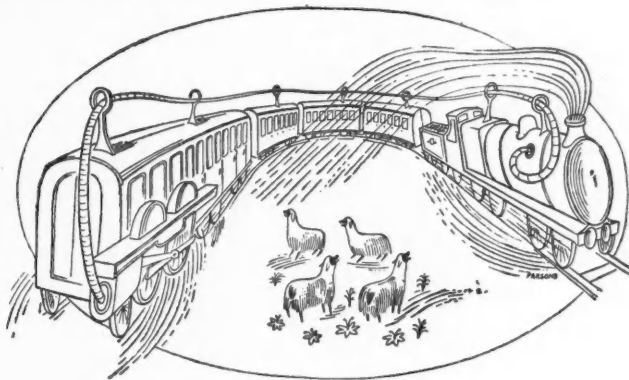
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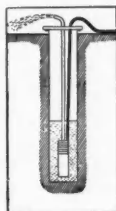
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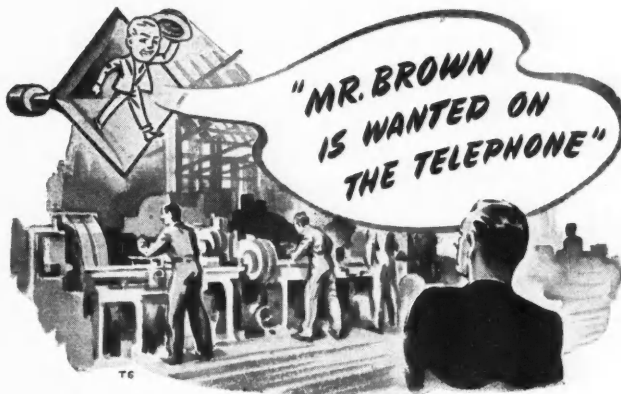
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Drawing by J. Gilroy

*My Goodness—where's*  
*My GUINNESS?*

# COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. XCIV. No. 2431

AUGUST 20, 1943



*Harlip*

## MRS. GREVILLE BAYLIS

Mrs. Baylis, who is the only daughter of Sir Gerard Maxwell-Willshire, Bt., and Lady Maxwell-Willshire, of 83, Palace Court, W, was married in May. Her husband, Mr. Greville Baylis, Irish Guards, is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Baylis, The Priory, Alcester, Warwickshire

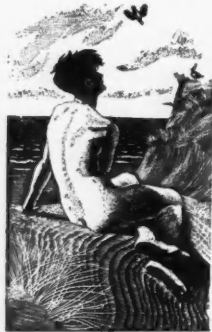


# COUNTRY LIFE

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## UNLOCAL GOVERNMENT

THE problems of combining administrative efficiency with electoral control are not confined to parliaments and senates. In this country we take pride in the fact that our central government grew up out of a system of local administration that is centuries older; and we are rightly jealous of traditions whereby the people not only have a ballot-box hold on Parliament but take an active share in the management of their own affairs. When a period arrives like the present, and the central Government and the servants of the Crown claim the peril of the realm as a warrant for taking practically complete control of our affairs, we are naturally suspicious that, even without design, we may permanently lose our rights and our liberties. It is with such feelings, no doubt, that the County Councils and Municipal Corporations are drawing attention to what Lord Ilchester calls "the recent policy of His Majesty's Government in seeking to vary the present framework of local government by means of substantial alterations and by piecemeal attacks." Even though no attacks be intended, the fact cannot be ignored that under war-time compulsions the County Councils, for instance, are losing many of their functions to the central Government.

What is done in war-time under the plea of increased efficiency may well be continued on the same ground, and we should all be foolish to forget that there are many people, especially in office, who, seeing no virtue in local organs of government except as the creatures and subordinates of a centralised State, would have us replace them all to-morrow by a centralised bureaucracy. If local government has no virtues of its own it is clearly vulnerable on the score of efficiency; and our recent symposium on *The Future of Local Government* showed that, however much experts and men of affairs differ as to the efficiency of local councils in the past, they would all of them be prepared to support a case for competent revision of boundaries as a proper corrective to lack of equipment and co-ordination. The National Association of Local Government Officers goes as far as to propose that "outsized" services should be transferred to larger "all-purposes authorities" for direct administration. From the point of view of efficiency there is much to be said for such a scheme, but it must never be forgotten that the introduction of very large units constitutes a great danger to the status of local government. Physical inability to attend meetings means loss of interest, and those who now give their services voluntarily might soon be replaced by a new and undesirable class of professional councillors.

The alternative to various undesirable forms of regionalism under which the central

Government would in fact be in complete control, is a renaissance of the spirit which once underlay local government and which now, in spite of the best that can be said of county and other councils, has almost ceased to exist. Until recently there were far too many people who even at election times could with difficulty be persuaded to record a vote. During war-time many such people have for the first time come into close contact with local government. Their interest must be maintained and the interest of the younger members of the community. There is no lack of opportunity for making use of citizens of every type of experience in the control of public health, education, and utility undertakings. And if our people will not make up their minds to control these things themselves they will sooner or later wake up to find that their opportunity has been lost and that the whole character of our local government has been changed while they slept.

## THE POLITICS OF BUILDING

IN the spate of discussions and statements on building after the war, ranging from the lay-out of London to the planning of a labourer's bathroom, it is always assumed that materials will be available and operatives able and willing to use them. In the long run, no doubt, the assumption is true, but for a period after peace many materials will be short or reserved, operatives not fully trained or fully exerting themselves, and costs consequently prodigious. The difficulty met by the authorities lately in building 3,000 cottages, though an abnormal case, is a straw in the wind, as was the lethargy of a builder of an air-raid shelter referred to by Mr. Williams-Ellis in his article on pages 326-8. They are symptoms of a profound and complex disorder in the industry, not wholly attributable to war conditions. Mr. Williams-Ellis indicates twin treatments for it. One, for components, includes the wider use of traditional and local materials, and the mass production of standardised fittings. The other, more radical, goes to what is perhaps the root of the problem: the relations of the labourer to his employers. If an honest citizen confines himself to laying 200 bricks a day when he is easily capable of laying 1,000 (and his opposite number in Russia is reputed to be able to lay 6,000!), Britain is not going to be re-built. Mistake, if that is the root cause, must be removed, but so also must ignorance or incompetence be stimulated to enterprise. Ultimately it is the public, including the bricklayer himself, who has to meet excessive costs and suffers from *ca' canny*. If it is fair that the nation should see that no fortunes are made out of reconstruction, it is equally just that the nation should tolerate no slackness, for whatever reason, in the supply of its vital needs.

## TIMELESS

*NOR shall they wilt or wither who are wise  
And timeless in their Immortality,  
For they are happy riding wider skies,  
Freer than we and our formality  
Of rising with the dawn from year to year,  
Clutching for stars before the sun is risen,  
Endeavouring to harness the Great Bear,  
And hoist ourselves beyond this mortal prison.*

*There is no dawn or dusk for those who see  
Only the light of Truth with open eyes  
In and around their great Eternity  
Of freedom from dishonour, graft and lies.  
The universe is full of such as these  
Who found their God among the Pleiades.*

JAMES COLDWELL.

## A TEST-MATCH SURVIVOR

ALMOST on the same day on which England was engaged in a war-time match against the Dominions at Lord's, there died in Australia, at the age of 85, the last survivor of those great elevens which first made terrible the name of Australian cricket some 65 years ago. This *Ultimus Romanorum* was T. W. Garrett, with whose name there are naturally associated in the memory of cricketers those of three other mighty bowlers, Spofforth, Boyle and Palmer. It was pre-eminently in bowling that the early Australian elevens were formidable. With one or two exceptions their batting was not up to

the best English standards, but those four bowlers were together better than anything England then possessed. So deadly were they that another very famous player, George Giffen, who was a member of the side in 1882 and had not yet quite reached his prime, had scarcely any bowling to do. It was through their bowlers that Australia administered to English sport two such shocks as it had not received since the year 1810 when the Negro fighter Molineaux came within an ace of beating Tom Cribb. In 1878 came the first jolt to complacency when in a single day's cricket at Lord's a strong team of the M.C.C. were beaten. Four years later England, going in to make a little over 80 runs to win, went crashing down before Boyle and the Demon Spofforth, and the mythical ashes of English cricket were first lost. Truly the old cricketer who has just passed away had some triumphant memories to look back upon.

## BACK TO THE ROOT?

WITHOUT Sir George Stapledon's systematic researches on the breeding of grasses and the devising of pasture mixtures it is safe to say that modern doctrines of leys farming would not have found their present general acceptance. Sir George, however, has no hesitation in acknowledging what he himself owes in the way of inspiration to Robert Elliot, the Border landowner and farmer who published his *Clifton Park System of Farming and Laying Down Land to Grass* in 1898. In an introduction to a new edition of this neglected classic (Faber, 12s. 6d.) he tells us how, when he first started serious work on the problems of grass land, the book was always at his elbow. "I do not think I have properly realised until now how much I obviously owe to Elliot," he writes, and goes on to wonder whether Elliot's original teachings did not contain truths which grass researchers have since neglected and which might well modify some of their more cherished conclusions. Elliot with his belief in the value of a turned-in deep-rooted sward—almost to the exclusion of artificials and the dung-cart—believed also in the use of chicory, burnet and other deep-rooted "weeds" which are certainly not welcomed in the high-quality leys of to-day. "Here," says Sir George, "is matter for critical research and for pondering deep roots," and humbly acknowledges how hard he finds it to explain why he has never tried to settle himself the rival merits of deep roots and leguminous nodules. On the other hand Elliot used clovers in his herbage and all that Elliot claimed for deep-rooted plants may in fact have been attributable to the leguminous part of the mixtures. Obviously it would be good to know!

## READING ALOUD

IT would be interesting to know whether the uneventful lives that so many people now lead, the long black-out of the winter and the habit of staying at home in the evening have contributed to a renaissance of reading aloud. It was once a familiar custom in many families and a very pleasant one. There are doubtless difficulties; books thus read in short instalments seem sometimes inordinately long; everybody does not want the same book and there are those who are willing to read but cannot bear to be read to. Again the reader, when finally chosen, needs a skill born of experience in the matter of skipping. There are some who have what may be called an eye for country, who can see in advance when they are likely to be stuck in a morass of sentiment or dullness and leap over so lightly and adroitly that their listeners never suspect them. Others plod on, resolutely refusing to miss a word, a custom likely to give lasting unpopularity to certain authors. Whichever system be adopted, many who have never tried it would find reading aloud extremely soothing. We have lately heard of one middle-aged couple whose choice in the matter of literature would not appeal to all. The husband is fond of trains and his wife reads to him nightly from old *Bradshaws*. Whether he sets her recondite problems in cross-country journeys or whether he merely relishes the long lists of curious or romantic names we know not, but in any case her conduct appears beyond praise. Are there many men who would be so uxorious?

# A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES . . .

By

Major C. S. JARVIS

IT is not very easy from the view-point of anyone in the south-west of England to give a reliable appreciation of the grouse situation in Scotland and North Wales, but from all accounts the season is expected to be an exceptionally poor one. At any rate those thoughtful friends and relatives whom I have in Scotland and Wales and who in moments of generosity send me a brace have already broken it to me that I need expect no birds this year because there is practically none to shoot. The reasons given vary from a late snowstorm in the breeding season, great increase in small vermin, the activities of the hill fox and the grouse disease. There is, it would seem, no chance this August of having that surfeit of grouse which occurs sometimes during the shooting season when one eats half a bird for breakfast, has the other half for lunch, dines that night off another, and continues to repeat the routine until one longs for a cut off a saddle of ordinary mutton or a slice from a sirloin of beef. It is, however, not only ridiculous but in extreme bad taste to write about a surfeit of grouse, and still more ridiculous to mention such prehistoric luxuries as a saddle of mutton or a sirloin of beef. To complete the absurdity one might as well mention a Stilton cheese.

THE month of August, however, is connected in the minds of many of us with grouse, and I recall that during the last war we sailed for the Dardanelles very shortly after the 12th in a transport filled with Scottish Yeomen, many of whom owned their own moors. So often during the voyage at dinner one heard the remark—which brought a chorus of nostalgic sighs—"Ah, what wouldn't I give for a grouse," and this was continued until we made the offing of the island of Mudros. This place, as veterans of the last major disturbance will remember, was the base for the Dardanelles operations, and anchored in the harbour was that magnificent liner, *H.M.T. Aragon*, which was being used as Staff headquarters and mess. It is in connection with this vessel that the time-honoured story is told that when they tried to move her some months later she was so embedded in empty champagne and other bottles that she was unable to respond to the revolutions of her propeller. I admit the same story has been told about several other ships throughout the ages, as apparently it originated in the days of Caesar Antonius when he was toying with Cleopatra in the neighbourhood of Mersa Matruh.

As we came slowly into the roads the Yeomen, who were burning to get into the front line after three weeks' incarceration in a transport, crowded along the rails, and a shout of joy went up as a launch with a "red-tabbed warrior" aboard left the *Aragon* and came in our direction at full speed.

"Here come our orders for disembarkation," said the Yeomen, proudly. "We knew H.Q. wouldn't leave us lying out in the roads long."

When the launch came alongside a young Staff captain ran up the gangway ladder, to be asked eagerly by the swarms of officers who crowded round him as to which beach they were to take, at and various other details; but the young man looked puzzled.

"I don't know anything about that," he said. "You'll get your orders later. We found out that you had sailed after the 12th August, and I have hurried over at once to see if you



E. W. Tattersall

## ON THE SHORES OF THE ISLE OF ARRAN: HIGHLAND CATTLE

have any grouse in your cold storage," and the sickening part of it all was that unknown to us we had, and the launch went back again half full of the succulent birds, watched by a crowd of hungry men in whose eyes gleamed envy, hatred, malice and no small measure of uncharitableness.

HISTORY repeats itself in the Middle East in war-time. The *Aragon* and *Mudros* came in for their full share of what one might call "Base Staff" class-consciousness 28 years ago, and the same thing is occurring on this occasion with regard to Cairo. Here the Base Staff permanent residents, finding battle-dress an uncomfortable garment in a summer temperature round about 100°, have all obtained for themselves suits of gaberdine which, according to my dictionary, is "a loose upper garment, formerly worn by Jews," but which in the East means a very light material in an attractive shade of beige particularly comfortable in a hot climate. In my days it was worn only by the British and Egyptian officers of the Egyptian Army, and the "Army in Egypt" were for some reason not allowed to indulge in the light-weight luxury. Now apparently the edict has been relaxed, and I have seen recently a letter from a convalescent officer in the capital who says: "I hope to be back to my unit soon, as I have no intention of becoming one of the 'Gaberdine swine.'"

THE sea, or white, trout is perhaps one of the most elusive and unsatisfactory of all the *salmo* family, as, though he can in some waters be caught in considerable numbers on those very rare occasions when the weather is exactly right, there are many rivers up which he ascends where apparently he has not the slightest intention of obliging any angler, whatever the lure employed. This is more particularly the case with our southern English rivers, where in the late summer magnificent fish round about the 8-lb. mark come up in considerable numbers, but beyond advertising their presence to frustrated fishermen by lying in full view in the pools, and occasionally jumping, do nothing whatsoever about it. I will not go so far as to say they never take a fly or minnow—I can only testify that I have never made them.

On one occasion I was asked by a kindly riparian owner to come over and try for these elusive sea monsters and, following his instructions as to the exact spot, I found no fewer than eight of them lying in a small bubbly pool below a weir. I put every fly I had in my box over them, in front of them and even under them, but except when the lure happened to touch them they did not move a fin. I do not

think I have ever been ignored so completely and insultingly by mere fish. At the same time, although my silver doctor bored the sea trout almost to yawning point, it caused great interest and excitement among the ordinary denizens of the pool—the indigenous brown trout. One particularly big fellow of some 2½ lb. got quite worked up about it, following the fly wherever it went, so that sometimes I had to accelerate the movement to avoid him. Then—I don't know if the wish was father to the thought and grandfather to the action, or only a distant cousin, but it happened—inadvertently or otherwise I slackened up and was into a trout which if I had been dry-fly fishing would have constituted a most satisfactory entry to an empty creel. It was then that the owner of the water came on the scene and murmured: "Oh, that's the trout we feed at tea-time when we have tea on the lawn!" And the fish was returned to the water in one of those uncomfortable silences in which explanations sound futile.

LAST week while going round our Home Guard town defences with an enormous crowd of Sector, Zone, Group, Intelligence and Liaison officers, we found, watching the movements of two of their men in a small boat, the platoon which is responsible for holding the line of a small side stream. This stream, a carrier from the main river, reaches at this spot the limits of its wanderings round the village green and peters out in a large clump of bulrushes at the foot of a cottage garden, and it was in this growth that the two men were prodding with what appeared to be sticks.

Evidently their activities were of more importance and interest than the manning of defences against an invading enemy who would seem to have another engagement at the present time, and the whole crowd of staff stopped to watch. There were various surmises as to the reasons for the men's search—the body of a suicide, a lost dog, a surfeit of lamprays and other improbabilities, and then one of the men made a quick stab with what we saw now to be a fish spear, and next moment a 9-lb. sea trout was swung into the boat.

The only dissentient note in the chorus of congratulations from the envious crowd, who line up daily in queues hoping for a cut off an inadequate salmon, came from one of the inspecting officers who happened to own the stretch of river adjoining. He seemed to think it was his fish, as it had passed through his waters to reach the *cul de sac*, but even cottages on village greens have riparian rights on stagnant waters, and what of the seigniorial rights of the old Home Guard who have held that line for over three years of war?



# BUILDING COSTS

By CLOUGH WILLIAMS-ELLIS

AS Minister of Works, Lord Portal recently gave his department's estimate of the rise in general building costs as 105 per cent. That was a month or two since, and the level still seems to be creeping up. But the Minister expressed a shocked surprise at the tenders received for those celebrated 3,000 agricultural workers' cottages, so presumably cottage costs (or at any rate the prices quoted) had risen disproportionately. Whether or no, current costs generally are certainly such as to preclude any but priority work of the utmost urgency, which, after all, is what one would surely expect.

To some extent it is inevitable, to a large extent it is directly due to deliberate Government policy, and anyway, on the whole, *for this period of war emergency only*, it is as it should be.

Indeed, the Government's virtuous indignation at the alleged inordinate costliness of its proposed cottages, and its reaction in cutting down both quality and size in a stern resolve to save a few hundred thousand pounds, come what may in delay and final inadequacy, is more than a little disturbing.

These cottages are, one understands, a pressing necessity for winning the war on the home food front, and it is for that reason, and that alone, that their erection now was decided upon at all. Do the Service departments, in war-time, cut down the size and quality of destroyers, bombers and tanks just to get a slightly cheaper job?

Such a question does not even need an answer, but directly it is a matter of providing something that is of equally vital and immediate importance to the national war-effort but, unlike the engines of war, has in addition a permanent peace-time social and economic value the matter seems to be straightway regarded in an entirely different light, and those whom Lord Keynes once unkindly referred to as "the sub-human denizens of the Treasury" are apparently permitted to perform their strange traditional rites.

In *The World Crisis* Mr. Churchill describes how the armistice instantly and disastrously once more reinstated "Money" as the universal yardstick. But that was 25 years ago and the war was already won, and anyhow "social-economics" were still a pretty new idea and, generally, there were excuses.

But if we react thus *now*, what follies I wonder shall we not commit after the next armistice? Let me quote:

A requisition, for instance, for half a million houses would not have seemed more difficult to comply with than those we were already in process of executing for 100,000 aeroplanes, or 20,000 guns, or the medium artillery of the American Army, or 2,000,000 tons of projectiles. But a new set of conditions began to rule from eleven o'clock onwards. The money cost, which had never been considered by us to be a factor capable of limiting the supply of the armies, asserted a claim to priority from the moment the fighting stopped.

Now, though one may be darkly amused to find a Government still quite seriously determining its actions by the quaint old touchstone of "Will it pay?" instead of by the newer and better test of "Is it in the general public interest?" it would in peace-time be absolutely right and indeed essential that maximum achievement should be required for every pound expended.

## POSSIBLE ECONOMIES

Housing may (it probably must) become as much a universal State service as education and the delivery of letters, where local costs vary wildly yet are averaged out. This value-for-money condition is, of course, a basic one of all such services if only to assure that as many people as possible may benefit as

much as possible from the sums laid out on their behalf, sums which, directly or not (and whether they realise it or not—and they mostly *don't*), they themselves will have to find in the form of either taxes, rates, rent or otherwise.

Now the total cost of building a house may be broadly allocated under five headings:

- (1) Cost of materials.
- (2) Cost of labour.
- (3) Cost of transporting either or both to the site.
- (4) Cost of building management.
- (5) Cost of plans, specification, supervision during erection and checking of accounts.

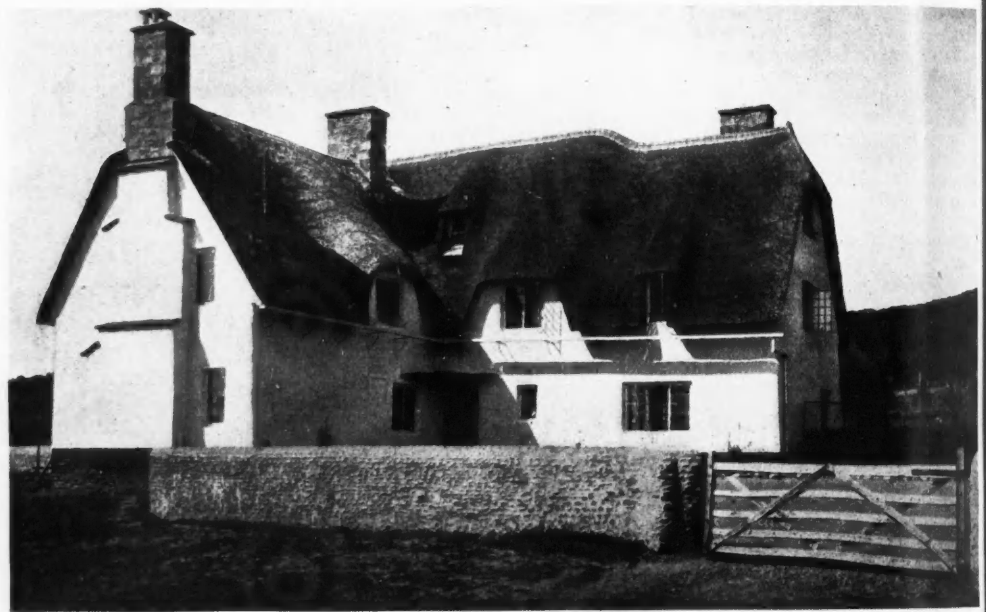
It may be convenient to consider these separately and successively with a view to seeing what economies might possibly be made and where, though obviously each section is, and should be, related to every other.

"Materials" include those components already widely standardised and mass produced in factories away from the building site, such as boilers, baths, cooking ranges, and iron-mongery and equipment of all kinds. Windows and doors are now also largely factory-made, but, pending the actual pre-fabrication of larger-

easier and cheaper foundations. In the days when timber was plentiful and relatively cheap, one cut down walls and got as much accommodation as possible into the roof. Under the new conditions we shall be forced to cut down our roofs to the minimum, which is likely to mean, if not flat concrete roofs, then at any rate low-pitched roofs or small rafters with a light covering such as thin slates. Thatch or tiles, with so much in their favour, unfortunately need a steeper pitch and heavier timbering. There seems to be a likelihood of less stringency in respect of bricks and cement than in most other building materials, so that walling may be the least of our problems, but even so, any relief to the demand will be very generally helpful, especially if a substitute can be found which will obviate transport and reduce the need for skilled labour.

## TRADITIONAL MATERIALS

After the last war, when building conditions were such as threaten us once again, encouraging results were achieved by the use of such ancient and well-tried expedients as walling in *pisé de terre* (dry rammed earth), cob (wet-packed soil and straw), clay lump, and



A HOUSE OF COB AND THATCH DESIGNED BY THE LATE ERNEST GIMSON, 1912

scale complete units such as standardised kitchens or bathrooms, or the revolutionary use of new materials such as plastics it seems unlikely that work on the site will be much less than, or very different from, that to which we were accustomed before the war. What could and should be done, and maybe is already being planned by the standards section of the Ministry of Works is to select a limited series of optimum designs and then place orders by the million so that production costs are slashed down to levels we have never yet approached, as they easily could be.

The chief jobs on the site are the excavation for and laying of foundations and drains, the building of walls, partitions and chimneys, roofing, the provision of floors and stairs, plastering, the bringing in of services, plumbing, the fixing of components of every kind, from down-pipes to door-knobs, from water-tank to window-glass; finally, painting and decoration and the valedictory clear-up.

Where, in all this, can we contrive economies? The following are possibilities. Sub-soil should be tested before the exact position of a house is set out. A slight move one way or the other (usually unimportant in a country cottage) may quite well give you better ground and

consolidated chalk. These old techniques, with certain modern improvements, were all revived in a small way according to the nature of the local subsoil, with considerable success, though, in many cases, the once well-known tradition having died out, some difficulty was experienced in persuading anyone that anything so simple could possibly be effective.

To dig, as it were, your house straight out of the ground, seemed altogether too easy to be true, too primitive to be any use despite the thousands of excellent old houses scattered about the country still testifying, after several centuries, that they had thus been well and truly built.

It is indeed singular how oblivious we can be to perfectly clear testimonials to the excellence of any materials that we do not accept as "normal," as witness the quite genuine doubts widely expressed as to the durability of weatherboarding when, in the happy days of plentiful timber imports, COUNTRY LIFE was advocating wooden houses. The fact that plenty of such survived still in robust health from the eighteenth century, notably in East Anglia and in London, did not somehow seem to have registered.

*Pisé* building, particularly, has been





MODERN HOUSE BUILT OF TERRACRETE—COB MIXED WITH CEMENT. U.S.A. Designer Francis Macdonald. (Right) Ramming the top course and corner of a pisé house with air-rammers; earth pile and mixing platform in foreground

considerably developed and advanced in technique since its sudden re-discovery after the last war, and certain American improvements, where a little cement is mixed with the soil, form the subject matter for one of the additional sections of the new edition of my book *Cottage Building* (Country Life). Under optimum conditions a saving of something like 70 per cent. can be made in walls—but of course in walls alone—as against those of normal structure, but such economy quite apart, the great saving in transport effected by using *in-situ* materials will long continue to be a matter of much more than personal concern.

#### VALUE OF LOCAL MATERIALS

But, public policy quite apart, it already actually "pays" the private person in many country districts to revert to the traditional local materials that were in general use until cheap transport tempted many away from the old manner of building.

I am at this moment putting up a farm labourer's cottage in North Wales with walls of rough boulder stone and roof of local grey slates, because, both being almost on the site, nothing that would be permanently satisfactory could possibly be cheaper. Here, because dressing granite into large corner stones is an expensive business, I substitute a rounded angle for the usual square one and the door and window openings have concrete frames against which the rubble walling abuts, these slabs forming the sides, to which the rough two-coat internal plastering is finished.

Otherwise most of the economies are due to simplified detailing and a general solid rustic plainness and, though individually small, they contribute to quite an appreciable total saving. Thus such subsidiary windows as are inserted simply to let in extra sunlight or to command a view and have no need to open, consist merely of a sheet of glass cemented into the opening left, with no wood or metal frame of any kind. Miss Justin Blanco-White has suggested that opening windows might very well be contrived by just a pane of glass sliding along a grooved slate frame; I think her idea worth trying.

I have argued elsewhere in favour of rooms less lofty than the minimum 8 ft. universally demanded by the standard bye-laws, since when I notice that the Government have come down 6 ins. for their own cottages, though they still leave us private builders handicapped by having to go up to the quite unnecessary old, full height. The healthfulness and agreeableness of a room or otherwise depends a great deal more on the correct placing and proportioning of its windows than on its being 96 ins. high!

#### LABOUR COSTS

But the essence of economy is good value for money and avoidance of waste, and in that connection I feel driven to saying, quite bluntly, that something will have to be done about labour. Generally speaking, its present productivity is just shocking, and so long as anything like the existing wretched level of output is tolerated, just so long shall we pay more than we need or should for our houses.

I happen to have a small estate gang of

my own that has worked continuously for me for a number of years, and, though the masons work largely in stone, do plastering, slating and such like jobs, they certainly do know how to lay bricks both well and quickly. In short, having long watched these men and also their like in America, Russia, Scandinavia and elsewhere in Europe, I have a pretty fair idea of what competent, well-timed rhythmic brick-laying looks like.

So when the other day in one of our provincial cities I observed from my hotel bedroom window a native bricklayer at work on a municipal A.R.P. job, I studied his proceedings with something of a collector's interest. But I couldn't bear to watch him for long; his somnambulist slow-motion movements were like those that you might expect from a man in a diving-suit working under water—including the long and frequent pauses required for deep breathing. Happening to have an appointment later in the day with the city architect and city engineer, I remarked on the extreme moderation of their employee's efforts, but was assured that he was working at the average rate for that area—namely round about 200 bricks laid per day! When I enquired whether that miserable output on a straight walling job was due to incompetence, I was told that when temporarily transferred to a job on a bonus basis the same men suddenly found themselves able to increase their rate of work to around 1,000 bricks a day. And what goes for bricklayers goes for other trades too, though output cannot often be quite so precisely checked.

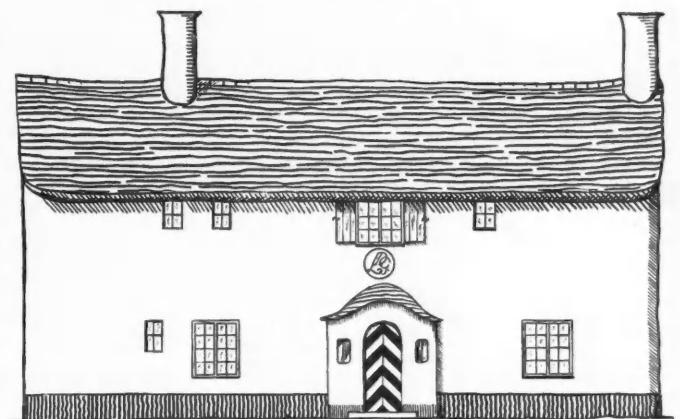
My informants were both experienced municipal officers, by no means anti-labour in any sense, viewing the situation philosophically, though not without alarm.

Their first theory that war-neurosis or the climate or some other imponderable factor might account for the observed lassitude had been dispelled by the bonus-scheme reaction, while they had been puzzled to observe that men building air-raid shelters in their own

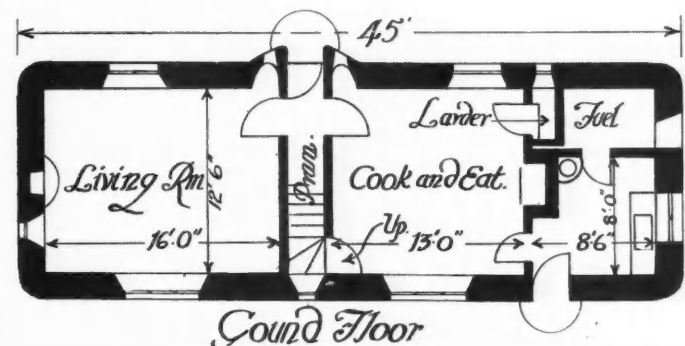
streets, to protect their own families and neighbours, would never exceed their 200 bricks a day, even at the height of the city's spectacular blitz period. Ordinary commercial contracting firms in this same region and elsewhere have broadly substantiated their statements. Clearly such an intractable inhibition against giving a reasonable output—even against a normally brisk bodily activity—must be referred to something deep-seated and pretty serious, a cause that has got to be recognised and eliminated before a cure can be hoped for.

That disastrous something is, of course, resentful dissatisfaction with and suspicion of the building-trade set-up as it is—or was—and that is one of the things that will have to be changed if we are ever going to get on with the actual job of building, unimpeded, as we should and could.

I suggest that the workmen, the operatives,



North Elevation  
Scale Quarter Inch to One Foot.



GRANITE COTTAGE IN COURSE OF BUILDING FOR MR. D. LLOYD GEORGE. Rounded corners avoid the necessity for dressed stones. Architect: C. Williams-Ellis

who are the great body of shareholders in the national building industry, should assuredly not be asked to make any sacrifice or extra effort in the great drive for decent housing, which will be one of our main post-war concerns, unless the directorates are required to, proportionately, even more, as they certainly should, and can afford to, do.

In my opinion, contractors' profits should be specially limited in this vital field, and I should like to see all existing plans for working-class housing as it were "conscripted" and declared free for the use of all. It would be inconceivable that any architect who had had the wit to evolve a design of outstanding merit should not also have the imagination to realise that here was something of wide potential use to his country, by no means to be jealously guarded by copyright and sterilised as a private personal possession.

Among all good citizens the architects should be foremost, and vividly alive to the quite special responsibilities and opportunities that are peculiarly theirs.

### THE TRADE SET-UP

"The building industry," of which a radical reconstruction would seem to be called for, no more consists only of "workmen" than the Army does of "other ranks"; indeed any effective reform of either would of necessity have to begin at the top.

Around our industry's top cluster architects, engineers, surveyors and trade union leaders, as well as directors and managers, and in so far as the organisation is ineffective, as judged by results, the responsibility is jointly that of these key men and the industry's rank and file—the operatives.

The private soldier has been transformed into the remarkably efficient technician that he now is chiefly by patient teaching and training and, most notably, by now being told things and being given explanations that formerly never went beyond the officers.

That aspirant officers now have the advantage of experience in the ranks is another common-sense innovation that I would have paralleled in our building industry, where architectural and other "officer" students would as a matter of course have to put in a spell in some constructional department on an actual job as a labourer or tradesman's mate.

Building trade operatives must, as apprentices, have their training broadened in the opposite direction, perhaps in regional trade schools where a theoretical course can be given to students in amplification of their practical experience on a job, such course including the basic elements of architectural design and some picture of the architect's approach to his problems and his aims in constructional and other detailing.

### PAYMENT BY RESULTS

The organisation of labour, materials and plant on a building job, progress schedules and so on must be studied to some extent by all save those content with the grade of unskilled labourer, and those actually responsible for construction management will need to be expert in such matters as never before, as organisation has not been markedly high in British building generally, a failure that has been reflected in unnecessarily high costs and dilatoriness.

Labour, too, must become not only more productive but also more skilled. Assuming the skill and adequate supervision, payment on a direct productivity basis might be instituted for much of the work—if not with individuals, then with groups (as is common with miners and quarrymen), these groups or friendly syndicates becoming in effect co-operative sub-contractors.

Under such conditions, a six-hour day might well be all a man could work at full efficiency, and on jobs of any urgency double shifts could then be worked, with the contract

thus completed in perhaps a third of the time heretofore accepted as normal.

But no such co-operation in the interests of efficiency, productivity, and economy can be expected from the men on a job if there is any risk of their finding themselves out of work when it is finished.

### GUARANTEES

It should, however, now be easy to guarantee every building technician already in the industry, officially badged as fully proficient (by a national standard trade test), full and continuous employment until his retiring age.

This guarantee would be given by the Building Industry Council with the authority and financial backing of the Board of Trade behind it. Only with some such guarantee could the trade be expected to welcome the large recruitment of dilutees and trainees that will be needed, who in turn must likewise be given guarantees, but of a lower priority than those given to the officially registered old hands.

The men should be given every chance of knowing what they are building, whom for, why, and how. The sequence, dovetailing-in, and general interdependence of the various trades and professions involved should be explained,

almost unbroken succession of loyal and exceedingly competent foremen from whom I never ceased to learn technical dodges in return (I liked to believe) for architectural edification imbibed from me.

Though much mutually beneficial fraternisation may be most fruitful on an actual job for which both parties are jointly responsible, it does seem to me that such co-operation and interdependence should be encouraged right from the beginning, on both sides, and that foremen, old and young, should be invited to discuss the suggested construction of projects designed by architectural students in their schools. The latter might make return visits to polytechnic and other schools of building, where aspirant foremen presumably attend at some stage in their transformation from ordinary mortality. Even a first-year architectural student, if he has the root of the matter in him, will have something to contribute as to the architectural aptness and acceptability of various technique, and should have enough sound sense to impart about scale, proportion, texture, colour and the æsthetic qualities of materials to carry the interest of any intelligent young builder away and beyond the purely practical bounds of his formal curriculum.

Thus might we do something to bridge the



SMALLHOLDER'S COTTAGE, WILTSHIRE. Whitewashed brick, local thatch, and rough elm boards (still obtainable)

the operative drawings and those of the job as completed should be displayed, with a diagram showing how responsibilities are shared, what stages must be reached when—and so on.

The interested co-operation of all concerned should be stimulated, on the understanding that all helpful suggestions or contrivances will be considered, and their adoption recognised by promotion or other reward. There should be generally recognised grades, as say, ordinary bricklayer, skilled bricklayer, master bricklayer, acting foreman, foreman, and so on.

As to general foremen, in the present writer's experience, and in that of most other architects with whom he has discussed the matter, they appear to be a race entirely superior to the rest of humanity. They are as a rule zealous, extremely versatile, possessed of infinite resource and extraordinary impartiality and probity.

### THE GENERAL FOREMAN

Virtually, the general foreman is serving two, if not three, masters—the contractor who employs him, the client and the architect.

They seem to have a self-effacement unusual in self-made men, great organising ability, retentive memories and a real pride in their work.

For myself, certainly, I am very well aware that such success as I may have achieved as an architect is very largely due to a long and

present unnatural gap that too often exists between a good design and its apt realisation whether in actual bricks and mortar, plastics and plaster, or whatever.

### GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY

The building industry as here widely interpreted must reform itself and should be perfectly well able to do so with no more than benevolent support from the several Government departments affected—the Board of Education, the Board of Trade, and so on.

But what the industry cannot do of itself is to create a general setting favourable to its effective intervention in the unprecedented job of national reconstruction.

That is the Government's responsibility alone—the setting up and operating of such machinery and controls as will ensure reasonable conditions in which the abounding enterprise and good will of our people may find that scope and discipline without which both will be tragically frustrated or misspent to our everlasting loss.

That there is still no effective central planning authority is already a scandal, and scandals have a way of developing into tragedies.

Unreadiness for war brought down the last Government. Must "It was unprepared for peace" be the epitaph of its successor?



# THE POTTER'S CENTURIES-OLD CRAFT

Written and Illustrated by  
NORMAN WYMER

**T**HERE appear to be no records to show the real age of the pottery craft, but two things seem certain—that it is very old, and that it was the need for finding some means of storing liquid foods which led to its discovery and development.

In olden days there were but few, if any, receptacles which would hold liquids for any length of time. Thus, the discovery that clay would harden under heat led to the lining with clay of the old wicker baskets for this purpose, and thence to the various pottery pots that we know to-day.

It is a remarkable fact that this war is causing us to depend more than ever on this centuries-old craft, and we are now relying on it for the same purpose, though in a different form, as did our primitive ancestors—for food. The great agricultural drive caused an unprecedented demand for hand-made flower-pots for food growing.

Although machine-made pots are suitable for many uses, it is the work of the hand craftsman which is most sought after where food growing is concerned. No machine can make so porous a pot as he can, and the more porous the pot, the better the food crops.

There is an all too great shortage of hand-

potterers now. Probably few counties can boast of more than three or four, while some have none, for the craft can be carried on only in districts where there is clay. The few that are left have been working overtime to meet the rush. Individual potters are turning hundreds daily on their old wheels in readiness for the spring sowing, especially for the main tomato-growing centres of West Sussex and the Lea Valley.

Pot-making is one of the few crafts where new methods and ideas are not much in evidence. The old-fashioned wheel is still used, and the methods adopted are much the same as they have always been. But, although the basic methods change little, the results are individual, even in flower-pots. I am told that an expert can sometimes tell in which county a pot has been made simply by looking at it.

Clay varies greatly in different localities, and each type has to be treated in a slightly different way. It is first dug in the pits, and carted to the potter's shop. The greatest enemies are stones and small pieces of grit, either of which is almost certain to ruin a pot. The smallest stone is liable to cause an early crack.

The craftsman's first job after digging is to remove as many of the larger "foreign bodies" as possible, and this he does by moulding the clay into balls, sometimes watering the clay first for easier handling.

These balls are then taken to a shallow pit where the clay is left for some hours to drain off as much of the water as possible.

Next comes the only machine stage, although many potters do even this by hand too. The drained clay is shovelled into a grinder (Fig. 1), where the finest particles of stone and grit are dispersed, the clay being pressed out of the base of the machine in the form of large purified blocks.

These blocks are then taken on a trolley to the potter's shed where they are deposited on a bench on which is a rough-type weighing machine. The weighing, although it need not be very accurate, is an important factor, for the amount of clay used largely determines the size of the pot to be made, and the potter knows exactly the weight required for each size. He weighs large quantities of clay at a time, rubbing each weighing into a rough ball. These balls are then placed on a ledge above his wheel.

Now starts the work of turning the pots' and it is always impressive to watch a potter at work. I have seen a number of them at different times, yet I do not remember to have once seen a potter make a mistake. It looks so easy that one is tempted to imagine that anyone could do the work. This is far from the case, as I learnt when an old potter in Hampshire once



1.—PUTTING CLAY INTO THE GRINDER  
Particles of stone and grit are dispersed by this machine

allowed me to try his wheel. The result was a complete failure!

The pots are made on a wheel which is revolved by a foot pedal. A ball of clay is placed on the wheel, and, as the wheel revolves, the craftsman pushes the fingers of his left hand into the middle of the clay, while keeping his thumb on the outside. In this way (Fig. 2) the clay gradually rises in the form of a pot, which is shaped at the same time by means of a small piece of metal which the potter holds in his right hand against the outside of the clay. An indicator extending from the side of his bench shows him the height and width to which the pot must reach.

It is fascinating, indeed, to watch these pots springing up. A Sussex potter, Mr. W. B. Hunt, whose family have been making flower-pots for some 200 years, once told me that he fashioned anything up to 800 pots a day on his wheel. A pot of average size, such as is used for tiny tomato plants, represents one minute's work on the wheel. All sizes are made in the same way.

As the moulding of each pot is finished, it is placed on a long plank of wood by the potter's bench. It is interesting to see them being picked up, for they are flexible like rubber at this stage and bend precariously on touch, only to right themselves on being put down.

The pots are taken in batches to the kiln (Fig. 3), where they are placed one on top of another. Here they are left to bake, the greatest care being taken to increase, and decrease the heat at an even rate. Too quick heating or cooling renders the pots liable to crack or become brittle.

Fast as the potters are working, however, they still cannot provide all the pots that will be needed.



2.—FROM BALLS OF CLAY TO MOULDED POTS



3.—TAKING POTS FROM THE KILN  
AFTER BAKING

Great care must be exercised to keep the temperature even



4.—INSIDE A POTTERY SHED



# COLLECTORS' QUESTIONS

(Left) A FINE TABLE CLOCK BY RICHARD COLSTON

See question: A 17th-Century Clock-Maker



A 17th-CENTURY CLOCK-MAKER

**I** HAVE a clock in a black case with a silver handle, feet, etc., and the name engraved on the back is Richard Colston. Who was Mr. Colston, and do many other clocks made by him exist and are they also of black and silver?—B. GILBEY, 12, Park Street, W.1.

Richard Colston was a London clock- and watch-maker, who was made free of the Clock-makers' Company by patrimony in 1682. Several fine watches and clocks made by this maker are recorded. Little else is known about him, except that in the *London Gazette*, May 16, 1710, a notice appears that he was made a bankrupt.

Table clocks with ebony and silver-mounted bases are certainly rare to-day; for it was only the best clocks of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries that had their case mounts of silver or alternatively mercurial gilt brass; the mounts of the more ordinary clocks being of lacquered brass. No other example so far has been recorded of a spring

(Right) AN ITALIAN SAND-BOX, SIXTEENTH or SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

See question: A Bronze on a Box



clock by this maker in an ebony and silver-mounted case. Possibly a few others may exist.

## A BRONZE ON A BOX

*I have a curious little bronze figure standing on a triangular box on legs; the lid on which the figure stands lifts off. Can you tell me what this can have been used for? It is about 6 ins. high, and the figure is that of a cupid (?) holding a goat.—PEACHEY, Bellingham, Northumberland.*

Your bronze is almost certainly an Italian sand-box of the sixteenth or seventeenth century. Before the invention of blotting paper, sand was thrown upon a letter or document to dry it, and the sand-holders were frequently miniature works of art.

## A HUNTING CHAIR

*Can you tell me what a "hunting chair" is, which is mentioned in an old invoice, undated, but about 1800?—J. T. S., Thatcham, Berkshire.*

A hunting chair is illustrated and described in Sheraton's *Cabinet Dictionary* (1803). The illustration is an armchair of bergère type and it is stated in the text that hunting chairs are "stuffed all over, except the legs. . . . The slide-out frame in the front, when it is brought out to the full length, is intended to support the loose back cushion, which brings it even with the seat of the chair and forms a temporary resting-place for one that is fatigued, as hunters generally are. Chairs are sometimes made without the sliding front, on which account they are made larger a few inches each way." The hunting chair illustrated is from Stourhead and was made by the younger Thomas Chippendale for the house in 1816.

## QUEEN'S WARE

*I have a jug and mug which rather intrigue me and I should like to be informed as to their origin or place of manufacture, and any other relevant details. The jug is 7½ ins. high and 5½ ins. diameter at the widest part. It is barrel-shaped and has a handle and pouring-lip. It appears to be some kind of glazed earthenware and is not very heavy. The colour might be called dirty white or dull cream, and the glaze is both inside and outside. There are three small bands of chocolate at the top and one at the base. There is a band of elongated leaves at the top, of an emerald green, with small five-lobed dull red (or maroon) flowers. On the sides are two bunches of flowers with roses in the centre and of the same emerald green and dull red colouring. On the front in black is the inscription "THO<sup>S</sup>. SIMS STROUD-WATER 1801," also a heraldic shield of dark blue with black outline carrying two crossed battle-axes or choppers and two heads of what I judge to be goats or sheep (all these being white on the dark blue background). The shield is surmounted by a boar's head in dull red and two pairs of crossed sheaves of some kind of grain (in black). The underside of the base has been turned, and I can find no maker's mark.*

The mug is identical as regards glaze and ornamentation and has the same inscription, but no shield or coat of arms. It is 3½ ins. high. It bears no maker's mark.

As far as I can trace the name, Thomas Sims was a grocer in the town of Stroud (or as

it used to be called, Stroud Water).—J. S. DANIELS, Whitecroft, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire.

The jug and mug are examples of the cream-coloured earthenware first brought to perfection by Wedgwood and named by him Queen's ware in honour of Queen Charlotte. Its manufacture was taken up by many firms, not only in Staffordshire, and most of these imitations so closely resemble Wedgwood's original ware that in the absence of a mark or some other clear evidence it is often impossible to pronounce confidently where a particular specimen may have been made. The pieces in question may very likely have come from the Bristol Pottery or the Cambrian Pottery at Swansea, both of which supplied cream-coloured ware of excellent quality in the region of Stroud. The arms are those of the Butchers' Company, and it seems likely that Thomas Sims, for whom the jug and mug were presumably made, carried on business not only as a grocer (as stated by our correspondent) but also as a butcher. The shield is not quite exactly rendered; what look like battle-axes are really slaughtering-axes, the erased heads are those of oxen, and the objects flanking the boar's head in chief should be sprigs of butcher's broom crossed in saltire.

## A POTTERY LOVING-CUP

*Can you tell me where this fine old cup will have been made? Unfortunately, before it came into my family's possession the stand had been broken and replaced by wood.*

The body of the cup is in green and brown with a few touches of an almost orange colour among the brown.

The general ground might be described as "off-white"—no very definite tinge.—C. W. INGRAM, Honeybrae, Nine Mile Burn, Penicuik, Midlothian.

The loving-cup inscribed "Matthew & E. Maddison 1798" appears from the description to be of white earthenware of the class with slightly "blued" glaze named by Wedgwood "pearl ware"; if of Queen's (alias cream-coloured) ware, the glaze should be of a warm tone, ranging from cream to pale primrose or pale straw colour. Good ware of this kind was made not only by Wedgwood and many other firms in Staffordshire and by the Leeds and other Yorkshire potteries, but also in other places such as Liverpool, Swansea and Bristol, and where the foot, on which the mark, if any, would normally have been impressed, has been broken off, it is impossible, in the absence of extraneous evidence, to give a definite opinion



A HUNTING CHAIR FROM STOURHEAD, 1816

See question: A Hunting Chair



### UNUSUAL LETTERING ON AN ENGLISH DELFT PLATE

See question: An English Delft Plate

as to the origin; much earthenware of this class was unmarked.

### MAKERS' STAMPS ON FURNITURE

I enclose rubbings of initials on two pieces of furniture in my possession. The H.W. is from the drawer in a Hepplewhite (?) table, and the I.M. is from the back of a chair of a somewhat later period.

Can you identify these marks as the trade signature of any particular makers.—J. G. BIRCH (Lieut.-Col.), The Royal Automobile Club, London, S.W.1.

The signature by initials is extremely rare in English furniture. A set of mahogany chairs



### FURNITURE MAKERS' INITIALS. Circa 1800

See question: Makers' Stamps on Furniture

with lattice-work back in the Chinese style at Pwllwyrach, Glamorgan, is stamped I.M., and it is possible that these (and also the chair referred to in Lieut.-Colonel Birch's letter), are the work of the firm of Ince and Mayhew, cabinet-makers and upholders, which flourished between about 1758-1802. We have no record of any furniture maker of the date mentioned with the initials "H.W."

### AN ENGLISH DELFT PLATE

I enclose a photograph of a plate in the hope that you can solve the enigma. The plate is a tin-glazed English delft plate decorated in underglazed blue made about 1750. When earthenware was made for anyone it used to be the custom to put the name or initials of the new owner on the piece; if this has been done in this case who was the owner? Is there any other explanation? —R. G. BIGNELL, Tunworth, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

The usual form of lettering on English pottery is of three letters in the form of a flat triangle, the initial at the top being the family name and the other two the Christian names of husband and wife respectively. More rarely two or three initials in line are used referring to one individual. There are other variants, according to the whim of the potter, in which two sets of initials may occur to commemorate friendship. In *Early English Pottery* by the Hodgkins, No. 482 shows a plate with initials B E 1771, and a Bianca sopra bianca plate with E

the wording ASTM 1761 is known. The tin-glazed plate illustrated has a border decoration which is unusual in English



### 18th-CENTURY LOVING-CUP

See question: A Pottery Loving-cup

ware—Lambeth, Bristol or Liverpool—but it would be necessary to inspect the plate to decide whether the plate is of English or foreign origin. All the initials must have been put on the plate when it was originally decorated, as it is very difficult to re-fire tin-glazed ware. The peculiar form of initials on this plate, with the letter A at the end of each of the four arms of the cross, may have been used to commemorate friendship of a number of individuals, but it is not possible to make any definite statement.

### A PORTRAIT OF A DILETTANTE?

Can you identify the sitter in this portrait of, it is supposed, a connoisseur, traveller, or dilettante of the period 1830-40? The Oriental metal pipe and Chinese vase on the right suggest travels in the East; the Renaissance carved overmantel (?) an interest in European antiques; and the large painting in the background the collection of Italian pictures in the grand manner. The 1st Baron Lytton (1803-73) has been suggested, but there is no confirmation that it is a portrait of him. The painting is in oil on canvas 39 ins. by 29½ ins.—H. A. L., London.

We have been unable to identify this interesting portrait. The Earl of Lytton, in reply to our enquiry, states that it is certainly not a portrait of his grandfather, although the long pipe and carved overmantel might suggest it. Nor does the face bear any resemblance to "Vathek" Beckford, or to Sir Richard Wallace, alternative suggestions. Possibly a reader may be more successful in spotting the sitter.

### ADAM DOOR-KNOCKERS

Did the Adam brothers design door-knockers? If so, by what characteristics can they be identified? —B. E. BLAND, The Rectory, The Lea, Ross-on-Wye.

Yes. See Plate VIII of Adam's *Works* (1778), and *The Architecture of Robert and James Adam*, by Arthur T. Bolton, Vol. II, Appendix



### A BUTCHER'S JUG AND MUG?

See question: Queen's Ware

p. 59, *Addenda*, where the references are given to original Adam drawings of knockers preserved in the collection in Sir John Soane's Museum. These are not accessible during the war and cannot therefore be described here, but the example reproduced in the *Works* is quite characteristic. The majority of original Adam examples probably disappeared from London when it was the fashion for young rowdies to wrench off door-knockers. Most of those remaining are likely to be reproductions.

### CANE TABLES

Referring to the Charles II period canetopped table illustrated in *Collectors' Questions* of July 30, a correspondent points out that one of the uses for this type of table appears to have been for the display of flowers. There is a reference in 1689 to "a cane walnut-tree table to sett flowers in."



### A PROBLEM IN IDENTIFICATION

See question: A Portrait of a Dilettante?





1.—WESTMILL, NEAR BUNTINGFORD  
TYPICAL HERTFORDSHIRE COTTAGES OF LIME-WASHED PLASTER

## THE ARCHITECTURE OF HERTFORDSHIRE

### THE RELATION OF BUILDINGS TO SOIL AND TO THE FUTURE

**T**HE hedges are now full of shepherd's rose, honeysuckle and all sorts of wildflowers. . . . Talk of pleasure-grounds indeed! What that man ever invented under the name of pleasure-grounds can equal these fields of Hertfordshire!"

The scene that Cobbett surveyed as he rode from St. Albans, through Hemel and over the Chiltern Hills remains to-day as fair as upon that hot summer's day 120 years ago. Of all the Home Counties Hertfordshire has suffered least

the ravages of time and the spoliation of the nineteenth century. The reason lies in the continuous organic course of its history. Its enduring beauty is the bloom upon its natural fertility developed through 2,000 years by man's slow and patient labour, for the tradition of Hertfordshire is an agricultural one since first Boadicea's men struggled with the troops of Suetonius in the fringes of London's northern forest skirt. Our common ancestor, the yeoman farmer, won for this part of England a farming reputation hardly surpassed elsewhere, and even as late as the eighteenth century the county could boast more wheat per acre than any other shire.

This agricultural sense and practice in the village communities of the northern areas even to-day retains a marked continuity of tradition with 16th-century England; in fact the open field system was till lately worked at Clothall. The peasantry are gone, ironically enough together with the squirearchy at whose rude hands they perished; the yeoman stock remains. The architecture of a village street, a green with trees, a manor house or mill, and over all the church, all these closely reflect the society that raised them. This yeoman tradition pervades the county and is apparent architecturally at every turn and corner and in every group of buildings, though the form, detail and texture vary greatly as the subsoil changes.

The geology of Hertfordshire is simple;

chalk is the secret of the county. The rolling hills of chalk are spilled over from Bedfordshire on the north-western border to run gently south and east, to be later overlaid by Woolwich Beds and boulder clay, and finally to sink below the southern tide of dark blue London Clay.

Hence on the rolling chalky downs rich arable, a few great stands of beech, deep valleys and a full diversity of curves; nearer to London pastoral flats, bright enamelled meadows and wooded grass lands. In the farthest northern corner the underlying gault crops out and Portland cement works exist upon the proximity of these two soils. From Tring to Ashwell stretches a tenuous bed of sandy limestone, Totternhoe, a soft, luminous, shining stone which lends distinction to the villages for miles around. Dressed stone is reserved for the churches and the more important buildings, while domestic construction is of rubble, clunch, timber frame, brick-nogging and stucco, and the Hertfordshire decorative plaster work on gables and walls is akin to the rich and varied tradition of this material in East Anglia.

Ashwell is typical of such a group (Figs. 2 and 6), a village of great architectural distinction, as the pictures show. The quiet informal groupings in the streets and square acknowledge the dignity of a past agrarian society; the siting of farm buildings (Fig. 10) is firmly functional and possesses a charm common to a thousand other similar yeoman holdings in the county; all have the vigour and strength of the yeoman stock.

Above soars Ashwell Church (Fig. 2), unique, cathedral-like in character, its Totternhoe clunch blazing in the summer sun, rugged and smooth by turns as the tricks of weather have touched it, the upper storeys giddled with flint diapers. The mason's marks within are famous, covering the smooth chine-whiteness of the walls, and under the tower one comes suddenly upon a glimpse of sharp and tragic history scrawled in crooked Gothic uncials: "M. C. ter X penta pestilencia miseranda ferrox violenta . . . superest plebs pessima testis . . . oc anno Maurus in orbe tonat" ("1350 pitiable, savage and violent; a wicked populace survives to witness the shocking plague. In the same year a tempest ravaged the land.") This records the catastrophe which swept all England and took one man in three.

Not far from here at Hinxworth Place



2.—ASHWELL CHURCH. Cathedral of the downlands, Totternhoe clunch blazing in the summer sunlight





3.—TYTTENHANGER. A great Cromwellian house of brick, incidentally a childhood's home of General Sir Harold Alexander

(Fig. 5) again appears the dressed stone under-storey of 15th-century date and at the back an oversailing gable of brick and timber stuccoed. Flints, cradled in the chalk, abound, and everywhere is seen the knapper's chequer-board. In the southern areas parts of the primeval self-seeding forest remain upon the clay and the existence of the Saxon Moot or Parliament is recorded in the place names of Edwinstree, Appletree. Here the timber tradition endures, black barns, red tiles and brick.

Down from the chalk run streams south-eastwards, borne upon the chalk by fertile alluvial beds to reach eventually the Thames; others are lost in swallow-holes to form the vast underground reservoir which lies upon the gault and gives London a big part of its supply. Others again, the "vanishing bournes," issue from the subsoil at different points from year to year, sometimes miles away from the previous season, according to the variations of the saturation plane below.

Brick is the material of these valleys, with timber frame and stucco facing for the lesser houses. Though the brickwork does not rise to the heights of Norfolk and Essex glory and has not the technical maturity of Layer Marney and East Barsham, yet there are many beautiful and well-wrought houses, particularly of medium size, well placed beside meandering streams. Besides famous Hatfield, Waterend (Fig. 8) is typical, smaller and less known, a perfect 16th-century house. Others are Lockleys (Fig. 4), Cromwellian Tyttenhanger (Fig. 3), and Mackereye End.

The glory of the middle lands, however, is not the mansions of the great but the lesser houses, the farmsteads, cottages and barns. These are the soul of Hertfordshire, this land rich but homely in its modulation, comfortably domestic in its buildings as well as in its landscape. Here is the product of England's heyday of small house building: the late sixteenth and the seventeenth centuries. For the village streets of Westmill and Aldbury, architecture is too big a word; their dignity lies in a simpler, less urban achievement, a more utilitarian quality, almost fortuitous. They are the product of an age when technical skill could raise unconsciously and almost without exception a work of art, whereas to-day such is achieved only with prolonged raining and great thought.

The cottage framework is of tough English oak, hewn from the forest by the wright's axe, and often of the standard mediaeval 16-ft. bay dimension which gave room for two pairs of oxen. The panels are infilled with patterned brick-nogging, diagonal, chequerwise or herring-bone, flint-knapped diapers or even tiered and coursed kidney flints. The roofs are mostly tiled, and it is amusing to remember that even in the thirteenth century builders were subject like us to vexatious regulations—for instance when thatch was proscribed in favour of fire-resisting tiles. Pantiles were imported in the seventeenth century as



4.—LOCKLEYS

A London merchant's mansion of Georgian brick (1717)



5.—HINXWORTH PLACE. 15th-century stone and brick



6.—TIMBER AND PLASTER HOUSES IN ASHWELL

ballast by bottoms trading with the Netherlands.

There seems to have existed in the past a feeling for materials which we have lost. The sureness of touch with which the local workman handled plasterwork astonishes us to-day. The rich tradition of pargeting spreads over East Anglia, Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Hertfordshire and Huntingdon, with great variety of detail and decoration. The strong and ancient mix of bullock's hair and cow dung, sand and road-grit, survives the course of centuries and is found faultless in comparison with the cracked and uncertain renderings of modern times. The craftsman's pride in ingenuity was also marked; examples are the garetting with chips in wide mortar joints, the varieties of tile-hanging (I have counted 18 types of different shaped tile), the skilled and charming treatment of shiplap and weatherboarding, the unerring colour sense.

Regretfully we leave these middle lands, the barns and yards, mills with their jutting craneshtutes,



7.—TEMPLE BAR

The most historic of evacuees

moated and gabled manors, so interwoven with the country life of a past age, an age of co-operative farm life, now broken and decayed by enclosure and industrialism.

When the clay regions of the south and east are reached the change of natural scene is accompanied by a strange awareness of dying social and historical associations. As the penumbra of the great metropolis is approached the face of the county is dimmed, its features lose form and character, the colour fades; the mansions of the past fall into decay, the cedars die. This district is rich with the houses of the great, relics of a dead society, the names of Bacon and Capel, Melbourne, Palmerston, Cecil and Cowper, Lytton and Essex. Such edifices seem strangely out of place in the social revolution that is upon us.

At Brocket (Fig. 12), home of Melbourne's Mad Caroline, every room breathes Georgian parties and Victorian politics. To-day the Chinese Junk no longer graces the lake, weeds clog it, elder and



8, 9.—WATEREND, Elizabethan, and HOUSE AT WORMLEY, Seventeenth century. Two houses perfect of their periods



bracken advance upon the park, and moles are wanton on the lawns. Inside the change is even more abrupt, for East-End mothers give birth among the Chinese dragons.

Another house, Woolmers Park beside the Lee (Fig. 11), is also symbolic of this transformation. Where once Cobbett could say: "No villainous things of the fir tribe offend the eye" now Victorian sequoias frame the façade and everywhere grass, weeds and suckers herald decay. Strangest object of this sad nostalgic twilight, almost the last seen by the traveller as he leaves the county, is Old Temple Bar (Fig. 7), Wren's entrance to the City, now re-erected in a misty quiet dell with gates fast shut, unseen, unused.

So much for looking backward. To-day we limit and mishandle the word tradition; its true meaning is not lattice windows, bargeboards, ties and thatch, but the spirit that made use of these. In the words of Carlyle:

The true past departs not. No truth or goodness realised by man ever dies, or can die; but all is still here, and, recognised or not, lives and works through endless changes.

For tradition is a flux, composing present and future as part of the past.

In the light of eternity our present planning efforts seem small and fumbling and the tempo of mass movement almost imperceptible. Nevertheless the spirit of change is on the move. Technically we live at a point in time as important as any other in our history. This is apparent in building technique where we see the evolution (for it is evolution and not rupture) of individual craftsmanship towards machine production. This movement is as inevitable as the aesthetic that will spring from it, and we must mould and develop it rather than try vainly to preserve the methods of an older social structure.

So what of the future of these beauties we have surveyed? How far to preserve, how much to demolish and re-build? This is the problem for planners and architects. As to the farm buildings and yeoman holdings in Hertfordshire, there is little doubt that the old and the new can live harmoniously together and that both will be required. The Scott Report clearly sets out the issues involved here, and their solutions, though the danger lies in what interpretation we shall put upon that difficult phrase "the maintenance of a healthy and well-balanced agriculture."

The future of the great mansions might include a number of uses. The social structure for which they were built is dead, but even in that society their use was so wide as to be institutional rather than domestic; the painted *salon* was less a living-room than a setting for the brilliant display of public personages. Should we not take this as a clue to their future use?

What a subject for an architectural student's thesis to-day—a survey of a region's parks and mansions, its social, educational and aesthetic needs, and how they could be met and solved by adult schools, village universities, nursery schools, centres of art and learning, of technics and agriculture; how these could be housed and administered by an enlightened local authority!

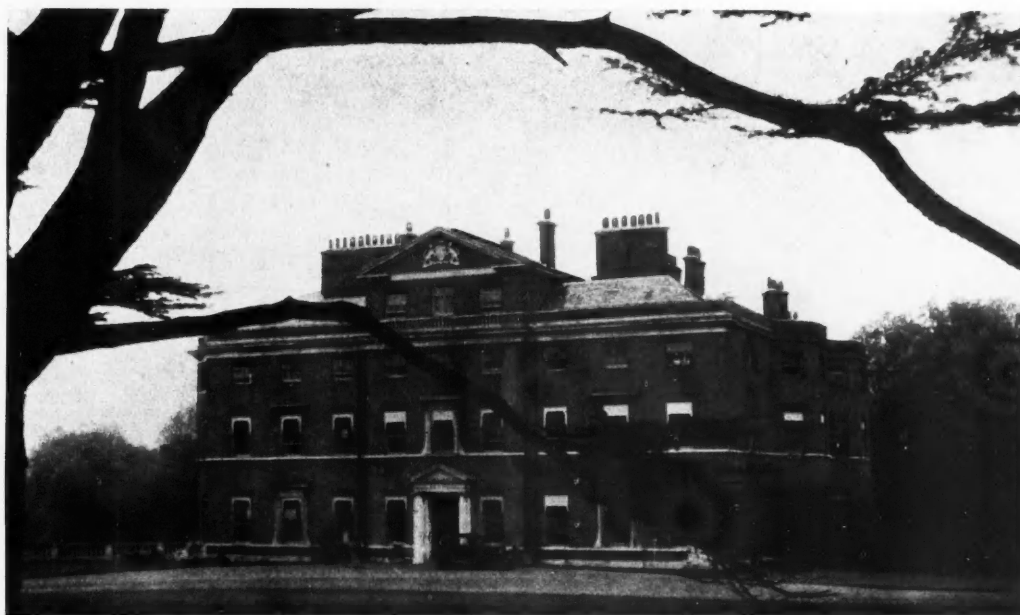
A. M. C.



10.—A HERTFORDSHIRE FARMSTEAD: WESTBURY FARM, ASHWELL



11.—A REGENCY SEAT BESIDE THE LEE. WOOLMERS PARK



12.—BROCKET PARK. EAST-END MATERNITY REPLACES WHIG POLITICS



# DISGUISE IS VAIN

A Golf Commentary by BERNARD DARWIN

**A**MONG the many gifts which I do not possess is that of writing detective fiction, or indeed any fiction. Yet even the most sterile and incompetent mind may now and then play with an idea, and the most hopeless of mystery writers may think vaguely of a plot. My plot centres upon a sudden and complete disappearance, something in the style of a once-famous novel *Lost Sir Massingberd*. A well-known and respectable citizen, from domestic and other causes, becomes tired of his life, resolves to begin again in a new character and surroundings, and, having vanished away, grown a beard and assumed an *alias*, starts afresh as a wholly unknown person in a strange neighbourhood. Will he be able to keep it up, or will he sooner or later "give himself away" and be discovered?

The hero of my story is, of course, a golfer and a very good golfer, with whose style many people are familiar, possibly a champion. It may be that he has grown weary of golf and of fame and that this is the reason of his flight. Clearly, whatever else he does, he must keep away from a golf course, and for some time he adheres to this resolve and all is well. But a course is made and a club founded near his place of refuge; his new friends urge him to take up the game and he himself begins to yearn once more for a club and ball. Golf keeps calling and calling in his ears and at last he gives way. He is not so foolish as to play his proper game; rather he pretends never to have tried before, humbly taking advice and perhaps lessons, deliberately adopting an alien and even grotesque style. Despite this he cannot help on occasion making a surprisingly good stroke, so that he gains the reputation of being a promising beginner and his original handicap of 24 is considerably reduced. How the ultimate revelation comes I have not yet decided. It may be that he betrays himself in a game when momentarily off his guard, or, weary of simulated ineptitude, he may go out in the evening with a single club, when he thinks himself unobserved. At any rate, sooner or later there arrives at his club someone familiar with the play of the vanished champion who instantly recognises some little trick of style that is beyond disguise. This person may exclaim on the sudden: "Why, it's So-and-so!" or he may give the fugitive a discreet hint. In a play of my youth *Captain Swift* the retired bush-ranger, now a respectable man, is recognised by someone who gives him a hint. He lights a cigarette from the other's half-smoked one and says: "I saw him as clearly as I see you now." It was a great scene, a thrilling moment, and I think I must borrow it for my story.

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If one thing is certain in this world it is that the story will never be written and would be a very dull one if it were. I do not even offer the plot to a more expert writer. I merely use it as a text for a little sermon to the effect that the Ethiopian cannot change his skin and that no man can disguise his swing. There is, I admit, some evidence to the contrary. I have told the story before (but it is here very much to the point) of how C. R. Smith, the professional at West Middlesex, was disguised as a deaf and dumb Norwegian sculptor and on his own course, with his own members looking on, played a match against Mr. Hilton. He could not deceive his acutely observant adversary, but he did deceive many who ought to have recognised his swing on the instant. Personally I was playing a match of my own and saw only one hole of this one; moreover I did not know Ralph Smith's game at all well—I believe he altered or cut down his waggle—but the swing itself ought to have been unmistakable. The fact remains that he was not detected and that tells against my axiomatic statement. But the onlookers were for the moment victims of their own wishful thinking; it was so delightfully exciting that there should

be a deaf and dumb Scandinavian who could play Mr. Hilton level. And then again the joke could never have been kept up for long; the triumph, and it was a triumph, must have been short-lived, and the player have betrayed himself.

I have been thinking of how the great champions would betray themselves in such circumstances. Harry Vardon might have been able to alter his grip and hold the club in his fists; he might have swung very flat instead of upright, but he could hardly have suppressed one characteristic movement of which he may scarcely have been aware, namely the shifting of the right heel and grinding it into the ground as he took up his stance. James Braid is a man of vast sagacity and self-restraint, but could he refrain from that little minatory shake of the club-head which comes in the middle of his waggle? I do not believe he could, any more than Sandy Herd could refrain from wagging altogether. So I might go on through all the eminent players. Each of them has a little unique mannerism of his own which must, as the phrase goes, give the show away. At first no doubt the observer would merely say that here was a most extraordinary thing, a man who wagged just like Braid or Cotton or whoever it might be. Then with a flash of intuition he would jump to the truth that here was the missing champion.

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Let the reader run through in his mind the golfers, whether celebrated or not, with whose tricks and manners he is familiar and consider if there is any one of them who has ever changed them to any material extent. I can think of two fine golfers, now alas! both dead, who might be said to have changed their swings in so far as they cut them greatly down. One was Gordon Barry and the other Frank Woolley. Both having had very long swings ended by having noticeably short ones; but the essential manner remained. Gordon's address to the ball, his particular and characteristic way of planting his feet, his whole indefinable way of tackling the stroke, remained exactly the same when he was a comparatively

venerable Colonel, as when he had been a St. Andrews University student who astounded the world by winning the Amateur Championship. The club did not go back so far, but it went as far as it did in the same way. Perhaps the nearest approach to a genuine change of style that I can think of was the case of the late George Hannay, a good and resolute golfer, once amateur Champion of France. He did learn by infinite pains to keep his right shoulder low instead of raising it to heaven at the top of his swing, and the swing really did look rather different accordingly. Yet he was an exception to prove a rule.

The late Canon Lyttelton once committed himself in print to the statement that if he saw in the distance a number of cricketers batting, he would instantly recognise each of them by his typical movement, but that the same remark did not apply to golfers, who all looked much the same. That merely showed that Canon Lyttelton knew a great deal about cricket and very little about golf. One who knew golf well and cricket superficially would doubtless express the exactly converse opinion, and I suppose the truth is that both cricketers and golfers are to the instructed eye equally characteristic and recognisable.

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To return to my original teeing-off place. I remember Vardon describing somewhere how in the United States he and two other professionals went to a course, took out caddies and went forth to play a round in the guise of beginners. They made various maladroit shots and received a great deal of good advice from their caddies. Then, growing tired of missing the ball, they began to play in their natural manner. Thereupon the caddies, deeming themselves to have been insulted and made fools of, simultaneously threw the clubs down on the ground and refused to go a step further. Well, that is what must in the end befall the lost Sir Massingberd of my unwritten story. The only hope for him would be to profess to be left-handed and take up golf anew in that manner. As long as he stood resolutely on the wrong side of his ball, the very greatest of champions might evade recognition, but whether he would find the game worth the candle is another matter. He might find it too humiliating to be beaten by people to whom he could normally give a stroke a hole. Mr. Michael Finsbury said that disguise was the spice of life, but that was only on a convivial occasion.

## DAFFODILS FOR HOUSE AND GARDEN

**A**LTHOUGH the kitchen garden still claims first place in our attentions with the insistent demand for the continued production of food crops, it is highly probable that more and more gardeners, heartened by the brighter prospects now opening up before us, will be thinking this autumn more of flowers than of vegetables. To do so is not to be lacking in sympathy with the national effort, but rather to be showing faith in a quick victory and a speedy return to normal pursuits and the manifold pleasures and beauties of the garden. After three years when most of us have concentrated our efforts on fruit and vegetable production it is a welcome relief to turn to ornamental plants and conjure up visions of well-filled borders of hardy flowers, the rock garden bright with alpines, the shrub border clean and well groomed and the woodland gay with its varied inmates from spring until late autumn.

A start with the work of reconstruction and replanting can be made with the spring-flowering bulbs which, although less plentiful than before the war, are at least in sufficient supply to meet likely demands at the present time. Some of the lesser groundlings like scillas, crocuses, grape hyacinths and the rest may be scarce, but daffodils, thanks to our home bulb industry, are available in fair quantity and an investment in these will be well worth while.

It is to daffodils that we must turn almost entirely for growing in bowls for house decoration, as there are no Roman hyacinths and Prepared hyacinths available, and, if a careful selection of varieties is made, a display indoors can be spread over some two or three months. To force these successfully, it is most important to allow plenty of time for the bulbs to develop their roots. If the bulbs are potted during the next few weeks they should remain in the dark in a cool cupboard or in their plunge bed until such time as they show an inch or two of growth, when they can be gradually exposed to full light. While they are in the dark they must have regular attention as regards watering, but, if the fibre is properly moistened to begin with, they should not require any further watering for a fortnight, and then a little water every week will be all that is necessary.

There are several fine varieties that lend themselves to gentle forcing in bowls and any selection should include the early Golden Spout, the fine yellow King Alfred and the two bicolor trumpets Spring Glory and Victoria, as well as Mrs. E. H. Krelage and Eskimo among the whites, and Sir Watkin, Helios and Croesus among the *incomparabilis* kinds. Bath's Flame and Mrs. Barclay are both effective in bowls, and of the polyanthus and poetaz varieties, Scilly White, Grand Soleil d'Or, Elvira, the lovely double Cheerfulness, Laurens Koster

## AN EFFECTIVE METHOD OF PLANTING DAFFODILS

Arranged in groups of individual varieties at the edge of a shrub border



and Glorious can well be chosen as a reliable list.

For outdoor planting in beds and borders, the choice is much more extensive and becomes more so every year as the list of varieties grows in length. Most of the modern kinds introduced during the last 25 years are flowers of first-class quality for garden decoration and, though they may cost a little more, it is much better to invest in these stronger and better varieties than the older sorts. Among the yellow trumpets, Dawson City is one that can be thoroughly recommended. A fine flower and a good doer, it should be on everyone's list. The old Emperor is good, but Aerolite is better, while Warwick, Godolphin, Van Waveren's Giant for those who like size, Winter Gold and King Alfred are others that should find a place in the border if there is room.

The white trumpet varieties are at last beginning to come into their own, and, though they are just as sturdy in constitution as the others, they repay the little extra care taken in giving them a spot where they can enjoy some shelter from the buffetings of the rain and wind which spoil their beauty. An ideal place for them is at the edge of a shrub border, where they are most effective planted in clumps, one variety to a group. Eskimo, White Emperor and Beersheba are all of good quality if not perhaps in the very first flight as white trumpets go nowadays, and to those can well be added Madame de Graaff, Mrs. E. H. Krelage and Alice

Knights, which are cheaper. For a bicolor trumpet, the handsome Duke of Bedford is as good as any among the medium-priced kinds, and if others are wanted the choice can include Victoria, Spring Glory, Empress and Weardale Perfection.

It is probably among the *incomparabilis* kinds that greater strides have been made in development than in other sections. Some of the latest newcomers to this group are magnificent garden flowers, but it will be a year or two yet before they are cheap enough to make their planting for decorative effect a practical proposition. An investment of a few shillings in two or three bulbs of a selection of them will be well worth while, however, as many of them are good increasers and in a few years' time quite a reasonable stock will be obtained. Among the self yellow kinds, Carlton, Havelock, Jubilant, Penbeagle and St. Egwin are all first class, while a little inferior in quality but still good come Bonaparte, Helios and St. Ives. Of the red crowned varieties, Bernardino and

Lucifer are old and still good, but much better are such kinds as Croesus, Hospodar, Brightling, Pepper, Damson, Killigrew and Folly. Damson, especially, is a lovely flower with a good constitution, and it should find a place in every collection.

Among the *Barrii* varieties, Firetail, Lady Moore and Lady Diana Manners are as good as any others, and of the *Leedsii* kinds, so attractive with their white perianths and crowns in shades of white, cream, apricot and buff, Mitylene, Lord Kitchener, White Nile, Tunis, White Sentinel and the charming late-flowering Mystic make a good half-dozen.

For a double, choice can be made of Irene Copeland, Lune de Miel or the attractive Milk and Honey, while among the *Poets* which ring down the curtain on the narcissus season, Caedmon, Horace, Red Rim, Cassandra and Sarchedon are all worth having, in addition to the old *Ornatus*, so useful for scattering about with a generous hand in all grassy places.

G. C. TAYLOR.



(Left) HOSPODAR, a charming member of the *incomparabilis* section. (Centre) BEERSHEBA, perhaps the most distinguished among the medium-priced White Trumpet varieties. (Right) GLORIOUS, one of the notabilities in the poetaz group and a splendid garden flower



# BANK HOLIDAY, 1943

Written and Illustrated by MARJORIE SANKEY

**I**F the Pony Club Committee had suggested, in pre-war times, giving anything in the nature of a gymkhana in this small village on August Bank Holiday, its enthusiasm would have been damped at the thought of how few would be the entries and how thinly it would—most probably—be patronised.

But war has curtailed counter-attractions and has taught us that if we want fun we must make it for ourselves. A pony show was therefore mooted, and the Committee soon became almost scared at the large proportions to which the original modest project grew. It became, eventually, the East Blankshire Horse and Pony Show.

The final programme contained 15 events—three for agricultural horses; one for light horses; three for hunters; three for children's ponies; an open jumping competition (some of it very open when it came to the point); another jumping competition under 15 hands; a driving competition; children's jumping; and a contest for the best tradesman's turnout.

It was the inclusion of this last event—which included farm carts—that made the local wheelwright's workshop such an interesting place as the date for the show approached. The wheelwright is proud to tell those who visit him that the family business is 200 years old. He was now putting into condition carts made by his grandfather, and doing it with tools made also by his forbears. And he was painting those carts so brilliantly that his shed looked like a giant's toyshop.

The Committee in good time approached the farmer who owned the ideal field in which to hold the show; the flat water-meadow of exactly the right proportions at the edge of a river in which the horses could be watered. Press of other work and bad weather sometimes make him late with his haymaking, and the Committee promised to turn up in full force to help him stack, if he would agree to his field being used. The members were as good as their word, although the weather this year was so good that haymaking was over weeks before the field was wanted.

As time went on it became the fashion to waylay each member and say:

"What I hate about these rural shows is the waiting about between events and the way the judges stand about jawing instead of coming to a decision. You want to be slick, my boy,



BETWEEN EVENTS: COMPETITORS' DISCUSSION

that's the word; slick. You know—C. B. Cochran stuff . . ."

At last the members took to using back lanes and byways, cursing the double summer

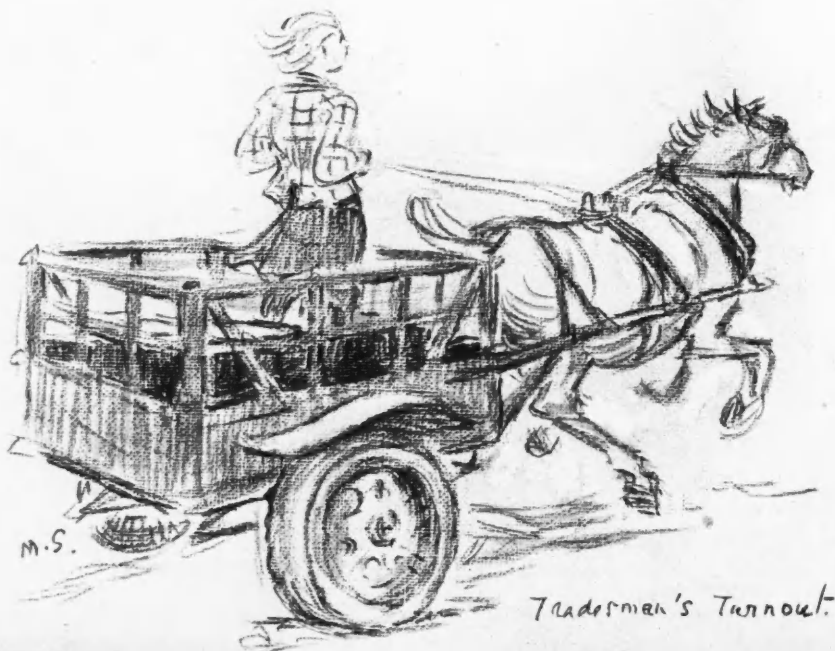
time which prevented their doing their errands under cover of darkness.

The lady who undertook the management of refreshments developed a constant headache over the problem of keeping within the new-made and half-known laws covering the selling of food, but she managed to produce supplies somehow.

The day came. The weather was perfection. The sun shone, but a breeze kept the temperature from reaching sweltering point. Enormous cumulus clouds rolled across a sapphire sky. The ground which rose behind the field with the suddenness of a theatrical backcloth was plotted out in fields in which the reaped corn stood in stooks. These, and the large haystacks and well-hoed root crops were sufficient proofs that we were entitled to take this one day off.

The owner of the field was, at the opening ceremony, the speechless recipient of a plated entrée dish; the gift of the Committee. This saved the wound dealt to him later when his Violet, most elephantine and hairiest of "heavies," was disqualified for having blundered into the "light" class through the oversight of her master.

Other wounds were dealt to those tradesmen who had loaded the horses drawing their turnouts with extra



Tradesman's Turnout.

(Left) GOING OFF WITH A BANG



Hair Styles.

## EXTREMES MEET AT THE SHOW

bits of brass-mounted harness. The judges decided that this would not be done on the normal daily round, and awarded the prize to a baker's neat cart.

Owing, the waylayers like to think, to their efforts, the events followed one another without pause or hitch. The loud speaker, of course, helped enormously to achieve this by warning oncoming classes when to assemble and where to line up. After the manner of loud speakers, its sound echoed through the country lanes, perhaps mystifying wandering strangers who did not know what was about by roaring forth:

"Oh, hard luck, Lady Gay!" or "Well jumped, sir, indeed!" out of a clear sky.

It also brought the news of her son's success to the baker's bed-ridden mother through her open window.

If a ghost from the '80s had drifted round the thronged field, it would have found things much the same as they were in his day. For at this show there were no motor cars, to the probable disappointment of the "specials" posted at the entrances to the village to catch frivolous petrol users.

There were, also, no cockshies, no orange peel or silver paper, no cheap sweets to make children first sticky and finally sick, no raucous music. There were just the horses—and what a lot of them; we didn't know there were so many in the county—their owners and riders and the spectators, judging by their expressions, blissfully happy.

The heroic lady in the tea tent was not blissfully happy. Her supply of food was limited. But she found her local knowledge stood her in good stead.

"Why," she scolded a clamouring would-be

customer, "you live just up the road! Go home to your tea and leave what I've got for those who come from a distance."

Result of the show—a gate of four thousand; all expenses met and a substantial sum to hand to the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund; and a conviction among the villagers that "We ought to do this every year." Also, the complete exhaustion of the Committee members, who wished they could now go to bed for a week.

With their war-time jobs waiting to be caught up on, of course, they could not.



THE YOUNGEST RIDER LOOKS ON AT THE JUDGING

## VISITORS: A Countryman's Lament

**A** PART from the thrill of harvest, August is perhaps the least interesting of the months. The summer's growth has passed its zenith; everything except the ripening corn is uniformly and monotonously green and overcrowded, tired and untidy. This is the nearest approach to a lull in the ordered progress of the seasons, a sleepy pause of satiety before the decline into the golden beauty of autumn. Yet this is the month in which townspeople generally see the country; when these superior beings from the great centres of civilisation, mildly tolerant, effervescent and compassionate, and arrayed in wondrous garb, descend upon our rural quietude. It is amusing and instructive to watch their smart, masterful efficiency gradually melting away into the natural simplicity of real life. They seldom stay long enough to become intelligently appreciative, and not later than the middle of September depart with ill-concealed willingness, to our great relief and lasting peace. Sometimes they grow so fond of the country that they take away armfuls of it with them. Perhaps a few words of mild protest may be offered—more in sorrow than in anger—by a patient sufferer.

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First let us make it quite clear that we really do like living in the country, and, strange as it may appear, have no wish to go to London to be "smothered up." We prefer to wear old clothes, which at least harmonise with, and are suitable to, our surroundings and occupations; and we can exist for quite a long time without cocktails. Nor do we always appreciate the boisterous effects of the "hearties" to "wake us up" or "take us out of ourselves." All this may appear as savour of bravado, and will be

received by our more sophisticated friends with a tolerant and indulgent smile.

Having been at some trouble to clear precious space in wardrobes, chests of drawers and hat-pegs for our visitors' use, we are disappointed to find them leaving their belongings everywhere else. The cottage is strewn with hats, shoes, scarves and coats of the greatest splendour, which accord but ill with their modest surroundings. Although we are perfectly willing to point out the whereabouts of ash-trays and even to fetch them, matches and unextinguished cigarette-ends are left in reckless profusion on charred tables and chairs, mantelpieces, rugs and garden paths. Occasionally some much overdue and misguided pang of conscience will account for their unwelcome presence in a treasured china bowl, a pewter plate or an ink-well.

Doors are invariably closed or left open in direct opposition to the customary requirements of the situation. Books are borrowed from their restful shelves, dragged about to unlikely places and there left open and face downwards. If, as a very unusual happening, one is replaced, it is generally turned upside down.

Chairs, tables, photographs and even pictures are moved to suit the mood of the moment, and never—no, never—put back. Empty tins, for the disposal of which we have no facilities, are left behind.

Many visitors not only accept fully our invitation to make themselves at home but, with benevolent compassion for our incompetence, take over control of the arrangements, so that any conventional distinction between host and guests is entirely dispelled. Not

content with the rôle of star actor, for which we have cast them, they must also assume that of stage-manager. Sometimes the remains of a conscience will rouse them from their sloth and suggest an offer of assistance in our household duties, often when those duties are completed.

They may be trusted with the garden-roller and perhaps with the weeding-hoe, but never allow them to touch the lawn-mower. One noble fellow offered to turn on overnight the slowly running tap for his cold bath in the morning. Although both were plainly labelled he chose the wrong one, forgot to turn it off and produced a miniature flood and an empty hot-water tank. Fortunately the stove was not alight and it was the work of only half an hour with the hand-pump to refill the cistern; what time the virtuous assistant continued his reading in the garden.

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Whether the holiday spirit excuses a complete neglect of mental powers has not yet been proved, but the helplessness and ignorance of visitors are pathetic. The most foolishly blithering and unnecessary questions are asked; maps, guide-books and time-tables, fail to convey the smallest information, and, if they are consulted, generally share the fate of the books. The inadequacy or inconvenience of the service of return trains is laid with curious irony at our door.

We are expected at any moment not only to provide directions and equipment for all sorts of excursions but also to leave our necessary daily tasks in order to join in them. The idea never seems to arise that we must take time to minister to their comfort and entertainment and that we also are hoping in due course



to take our own holiday, now more than ever necessary, to restore our peace of mind and repair our jagged nerves. We are suspected of using our work as a poor excuse to be selfish and unsociable.

No one is so qualified to talk with authority of the country and the various duties of agriculture as the suburban townsman, particularly if he cultivates a garden or an allotment. After all, farming is only an extension of these processes. He has read widely about trees and birds, about hunting and fishing, and can supply instruction on many subjects which we only know by practice. One such expert was explaining the difference between the beech and the hornbeam and illustrated his discourse with an actual example, which happened to be a hazel.

Fortunately as a result of the shortage of petrol we are temporarily spared the trials of the stray callers who "pop in for five minutes" and stay very much longer. They arrive in a blast of genial *bonhomie* and assured welcome, with profuse unnecessary explanations of their long absence, which otherwise might have remained unnoticed. Their order to the chauffeur to call back for them in two hours' time floors us like a blow between the eyes and

drives into the far dim distance any plans we have made.

The letters which we had intended to write must be delayed a day, for the post waits for no man; the weeds in the paths and the grass on the lawn must continue to grow until the morrow, when it may perhaps rain. We are condemned to watching helplessly the golden moments wasted in a painful atmosphere of forced jollity. Fortunately their own exuberant geniality prevents them from noticing the effort on our part, and we can only hope that the chauffeur will play his part with commendable punctuality.

It must not be thought from these remarks that we are not pleased to see our visitors; it is because we love them that we would try to improve them. Nor should anything that we have said be regarded as of personal application; it refers only to the others. They arrive always in an overwhelming outburst of affectionate welcome, for we have short memories and hope for the best; but it must also be confessed that they generally depart in an equally hearty, if politely subdued, transport of tired relief. The happiness of the return to our ordinary, peaceful, undisturbed life is almost overpowering.

Occasionally heaven sends us a quiet soul who can amuse himself without our aid, who finds out things for himself, who cheers our moments of relaxation but unobtrusively disappears when we are busy, who has no wish to improve our lot or dispel our ignorance and is peacefully happy with his own. God bless him! Rose Henniker Heaton has described such a one, with a change of gender, in some delightful lines, which I hope I may be allowed to recall.

She answered by return of post  
The invitation of her host.  
She caught the train she said she would  
And changed at junctions as she should.  
She brought a light and smallish box  
And keys belonging to the locks.  
Food strange and rare she did not beg,  
But ate the homely scrambled eggs.  
When offered lukewarm tea, she drank it;  
She did not crave an extra blanket,  
Nor extra pillows for her head;  
She seemed to like the spare-room bed.  
She never came downstairs till tea;  
She brought her own self-filling pan;  
Nor once by look or word of blame  
Exposed her host to open shame.  
She left no little things behind  
Excepting loving thoughts and kind  
T.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### WAGES AND HOUSING

SIR,—Next to winning the war, the two questions that appear to be paramount in the public mind are post-war housing and post-war agriculture, but unfortunately many of the people who speak and write about these subjects, both inside and outside the House of Commons, appear to know little or nothing about them.

Post-war housing, particularly in the rural districts, and post-war agriculture, are closely interwoven subjects, neither of which can be considered separately. One point is vital and needs an authoritative ruling. Will the farmers and market gardeners, when the war is over, be compelled to pay the same high rates for labour that they are doing at the present time? If so, a very high tariff wall will have to be erected against all Continental produce to enable them to do so. Such countries as Belgium, Holland, Brittany, pay their labourers 15s. per week in normal times and, considering the condition of those countries, it is possible that after the war they may pay even less. We shall have the Breton boys cycling about our towns and cities offering

onions at 9d. a string, which the market gardener could not possibly produce for less than 3s. 6d.

The wages question of the future is of great importance, not only to the farmer and market gardener, but also to their employees, as on the amount they earn depends what they can afford to pay in the form of rent for the proposed new houses which will cost on an average £800 apiece. If the labourers' wages are reduced, owing to Continental grown produce, it is quite obvious that they will not be able to live in them.

There appears to be a possibility of a repetition of Mr. Lloyd George's building scheme after the last great war, which was so sadly handled by Dr. Addison. On that occasion local authorities were ordered to purchase sites and build houses at any cost. When the houses were completed the economic rent was found to be 24s. a week. Tenants went in but few paid their rent and many were consequently ejected. The same procedure followed until councils lowered rents ultimately to 10s. a week, which has shown a capital loss to the local ratepayers for the past 24 years of 14s. a week.

Over 100 years ago my grandfather built over 60 artisan dwellings, which are in good order and all occupied to-day. They were built from local bricks and have slate roofs and consist of front sitting-room, kitchen and three bedrooms. They would not pass the local surveyor to-day, I am well aware, but they served their purpose in those days and none of them was let for more than 3s. a week. When the main water was laid on and proper lavatories were built the rent was increased to 3s. 3d. a week. That is the rent to-day and all are occupied.

Knowing the artisan class well, I feel that the majority of them do not require a parlour as well as a sitting-room. What they really want is one fairly large sitting-room in which to live and have their meals, with a good coal fire, a kitchen-scullery-bathroom and three bedrooms, one of the latter much larger than the other two,

with provision in the centre by means of sliding or folding doors to convert it into two rooms in the case of an increase in the family. Also the provision of an outside shed.

Semi-detached bungalows built in pairs rough-cast on the exterior would give a very attractive appearance. It is to be hoped that small window panes will be dispensed with, as so many span-rails spoil the view. By having the houses in the form of bungalows, the cost of staircases is dispensed with, which is a big consideration, and such a house means less labour for the housewife. The orthodox gable roof is very expensive; equally effective roofs could be obtained by raising the centre walls and allowing the rafters to rest upon them, bolted to iron straps built into the wall. The rafters would then be boarded and felt-lined before being tiled. I believe such a house even at the close of the present war could be constructed for £500 and would have an attractive appearance and be easy to run.—C. R. PURSER, *Oakhurst, The Common, Midhurst, Sussex.*

### VARIATION IN SCYTHES

SIR,—You recently published some admirable photographs of a man using a scythe, the implement being of typical English pattern. Your readers may be interested to see a picture of the scythe used in the Shetlands, which has a very short snead, and that used in Norway which has a remarkably long one. The latter no doubt saves the user much back-ache.—FRANCES PITT, *Shropshire.*

### TIMING THE CUCKOO

From Lord Shuttleworth.

SIR,—Perhaps you would like to print the following passage of Wilfred Blount's *Diary* (April 29, 1910) in connection with the recent correspondence on the cuckoo. He was at New Buildings Place, Sussex:

"This morning I opened my window at 3.45, and five minutes later a cuckoo began to sing. . . and went on and on for some twenty-five minutes while I counted. . . He began with a series of 208, when another cuckoo interrupted at a distance, but after some fifteen seconds he went on again with a



THE LONG SNEAD OF NORWAY

See letter: Variation in Scythes

series of 368 and another of 71, and another of 354 and then 55. In all, 1,056 notes without a break of more than a quarter of a minute. . . I noted with the seconds hand of the watch that he did 38 to 40 notes to the minute, though at the beginning he was quicker and more regular."—SHUTTLEWORTH, 10, Wilton Street, S.W.1.

### POODLES AS GUN-DOGS

SIR,—The objection to poodles as gun-dogs suggested in a letter, under *Further Canine Conclusions* (July 16) is that, so often, they have very hard mouths.

COUNTRY LIFE becomes better and better. My copy goes to at least six houses and finishes at a Scottish hospital. It never dates!—A., *Wexham, Winchester.*

### DOGS AT CHURCH

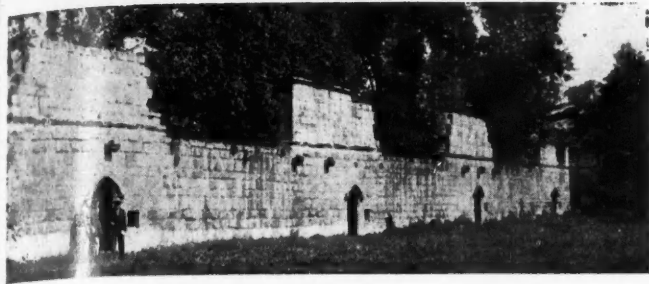
SIR,—In his article, *Dogs at Church* (July 16), Mr. E. R. Yarham illustrates the remarkable figures of the pedlar and his dog, of the time of Henry VII, carved upon the benches in the church of Swaffham, in Norfolk; and the romantic story of John Chapman, the pedlar of Swaffham, and the pos of gold which he discovered beneath the apple tree, is told by Captain S. nerset de Chair in his letter of July 3.

Mr. Yarham's stories of dogs at church recall an incident that occurred a little over a century before the time of the pedlar of Swaffham. Addressing the nuns of Romsey in 1387, William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester,



THE SHORT SNEAD OF THE SHETLANDS

See letter: Variation in Scythes



THE DOORWAYS AND HATCHES OF THE MONKS' CELLS AT MOUNT GRACE PRIORY

See letter: Mount Grace Priory

rebukes them for bringing to church with them "birds, rabbits, hounds and suchlike frivolous things, whereunto they have more heed than to the offices of the church."

Of the prioress on pilgrimage in his *Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer tells us: "Of small hounds had she, that she fed With roasted meat and milk and was bread."

—H. CLIFFORD SMITH, *Highcleeve, near Newbury.*

### MOUNT GRACE PRIORY

SIR,—Readers may find the accompanying photograph of the monks' cells at Mount Grace Priory of interest. There are some Carthusian monasteries in England, but it is only at Mount Grace in Cleveland, Yorkshire, that the cells with feeding hatches exist.

Each cell had two storeys, a ladder giving access to the upper sleeping quarters; at the rear of each cell was a small plot. There were 15 cells in all and the door of each led into a centre court.

The Carthusian order was notable for its austerity and privation; even the passages of the feeding hatches had a right-angle bend in, so that the



A REAPER IN BENGAL

See letter: Harvest in Bengal

monks could not see the person who handed the food through.—ARTHUR H. DODDS, *Middlesbrough.*

### HARVEST IN BENGAL

SIR,—Your Harvest Number with its excellent pictures came to me in December, just as I had returned from a walk in the paddy fields where I had taken the enclosed photograph. Though you belated it may be of interest. The lack of mechanical devices is very noticeable, but I suppose a paper-binder would soon come to grief on the narrow curving terraces.—J. T. BEVAN (Sister, T.A.N.S. C.I. Hospital, Asansol, Bengal, India).

### SAXON THORN'S SUCCESSOR

SIR,—Down a lane leading from the main Exeter road off towards Salcombe Regis can be seen in a small enclosure the tree shown in the photograph.

Behind the tree is a stone with

an inscription according to which, "a thorn tree has been maintained here since Saxon times, when it marked the boundary between the cultivated field of the combe and the open common of the hill. It has given the name 'Thorn' to the adjacent house where the manor court was held, and to the surrounding farm."

The stone was erected in 1939 and this Devon curiosity does not seem to be mentioned in any of the popular guide-books.

—L. HART, *Rugby.*

[In *Historic Thorn Trees* (COUNTRY LIFE, 1941), D. R. Vaughan Cornish has collected the considerable lore

attaching to thorn trees, both as a species and as individuals. Those of Crowthorne (Berkshire), Salcombe Regis (Devon), and Thorncombe (Dorset), are shown to be landmarks of great antiquity. A local tradition about the Salcombe Regis thorn is that when it dies "a new one must be planted or the land will fly back to the King." In 1928 the tree planted c. 1840 was blown down and the present one set in its place by the Rev. J. G. Cornish, owner of Thorn Farm and brother of Dr. Vaughan Cornish. It is to be wished that the new guide-books which are necessitated by the changing face of Britain, the progress of archaeology and the widening of popular interests, will include references to such local landmarks and traditions.—Ed.]



THE BOUNDARY THORN TREE AT THORN

See letter: Saxon Thorn's Successor

### A SMART TURN-OUT

SIR,—This turn-out is used every day for shopping, etc., and is also being shown a lot.

The horse is Mrs. D. G. Matthew's long-distance trotter, Bonney B, 8-year-old gelding, by Joey B. A winner of prizes, he is an example of the ideal type for use in war-time, being full of endurance and courage. Mrs. Matthew lives at Chorley Wood, Hertfordshire.—LIONEL JAYNE, *Constitutional Club, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2.*

### AT BUNNY PARK

SIR,—In your recent news of the sale of Bunny Park (with its "wrestling baronet's" tomb) you expressed

concern over the future of the estate. I understand that for war-time, at any rate, the Park is to be let out for farming.

You may be interested to see a picture of the queerly decorated tower of which your correspondent wrote.

—F. R. WINSTONE, 5, Osborne Road, Bristol, 3.

### TIMBER HOUSES

SIR,—Your correspondent, Mr. Curius Crowe, in your issue of July 30, comments on the absence of foundations to the mediæval wooden house illustrated as being a strange circumstance.

This type of house, spoken of in those days as a "frame," the term frame house surviving until to-day, generally had no foundations in the ordinary sense of the word, being set as shown in your illustration on a heavy plate or log known as the groundsell. The absence of a groundsell is commented on in the description of the building, a victualling-house, belonging to "Mother Mam-Pudding" near the quayside in Tower Street

Ward. In this case the uprights were taken straight down into the ground, the builders being shipwrights.

The close supervision being given by the master carpenter in your illustration may well be due to the building being one which he was erecting under contract. The carpenters in early days were the really important men in the building trade, the mason not yet having attained his later eminence. The carpenter was the "domifex," the home-maker, to whom the ordinary citizen would go when in need of a builder, and there is an interesting contract, dated

November 11, 1308, when Simon of Canterbury, carpenter, came before the mayor and aldermen and acknowledged "that he would make at his own proper charges, down to the locks, for William de Harrington, pelter, before the feast of Easter next ensuing, a hall and a room with a chimney, and one larder between the said hall and room; and one

sollar over the room and larder, also one oriole at the end of the hall beyond the high bench, and one step with an oriole, from the ground to the door of the hall aforesaid, outside of that hall; and two enclosures as cellars opposite



THE CURIOUS TOWER AT BUNNY PARK, NOTTINGHAM

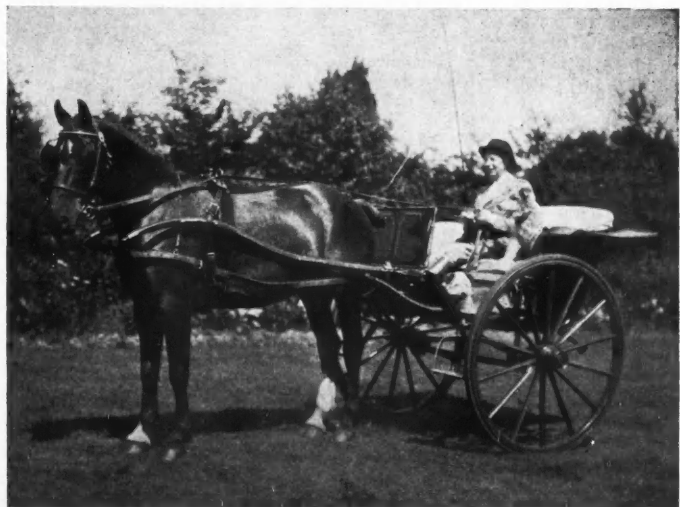
See letter: At Bunny Park

to each other beneath the hall; and one enclosure for a sewer with two pipes leading to the sewer and one stable . . . with a sollar above such stable and a garret above the sollar aforesaid; and at one end of the sollar there is to be a kitchen with a chimney; and there is to be an oriole between the said hall and the old chamber."

The method of arranging the contract will be noticed; the builder and the building owner recited their undertaking before witnesses at the Guild Hall, a memorandum was made in the records and the agreement was settled. For this job Harrington agreed to pay Simon £9 5s. 4d. sterling, half a hundred Eastern marten skins, fur for a woman's hood and fur for a robe for Simon himself.

The various meanings attached to the word oriole in the Middle Ages will be noticed. It was not then, as now, only a window hanging out from a wall, but also a small porch, or a landing, or a lobby, or a small chamber.

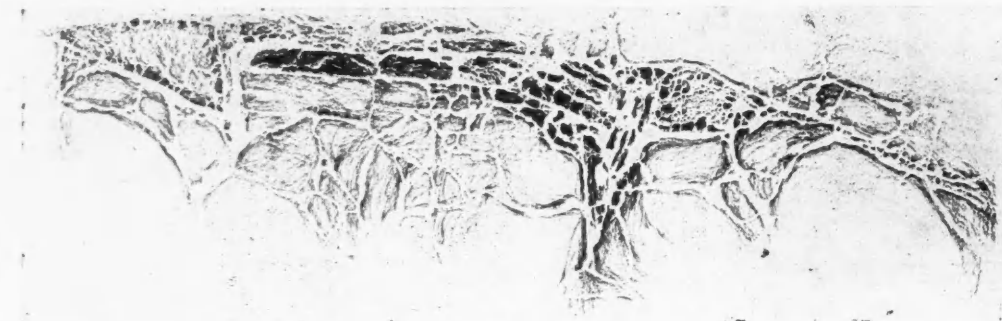
The carpenters also had the right to charge a fee for granting a licence to anybody who wished to erect a frame. This was the main frame, the "framyd-dolatus," and many instances are found in their books, as



BONNEY B, A VERY GOOD TYPE OF DRIVING HORSE

See letter: A Smart Turn-out





### A HEELBALL RUBBING OF THE FOSSILISED SKELETON OF AN EXTINCT SAURIAN

See letter: *The Monster of Tredington*

"received a Barrell of Alle of the masters of sent gylls bretherred (St. Giles's Brotherhood), for a lysens to set up a frame in Wt. Crosse Street."

An interesting example of enterprise on a larger scale than usual in a frame building was the building put up by Thomas Wood, Sheriff, in 1491, over against the end of Wood Street in Cheap. This was known as Goldsmiths' Row, on account of its large amount of gilding and the Goldsmiths' arms with which it was adorned, and it consisted of 10 dwelling-houses and 14 shops, uniformly built four storeys high "all in one frame." This must have been one of the earliest examples of shops and houses being combined in the same building in any considerable number.

As regards the material which would be used for such a job, timber came from the Baltic then as in modern times, although Harrison, in 1587, says that only oak was any whit regarded. The ports of Rye, Winchelsea, Dover, Chichester did a considerable export trade in timber. Nails were made in large quantities at Syon in Middlesex, their shape was often indicated by their name, such as sparrow-bills, etc., and the names of mediæval building tools which have survived are numerous. There are many illustrations of building operations in the Royal M.S. and other sources.—R. L. PALMER, *Morcombe-lake, Bridport, Dorset.*

### THE MONSTER OF TREDINGTON

SIR,—It is generally believed that the first fossil ichthyosaurus was discovered by Mary Anning at Lyme Regis, Dorset, in comparatively recent times. But in the south porch of the interesting Norman church at Tredington, near Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, may be seen to-day, embedded in the pavement of blue limestone, the fossilised skeleton, 9 ft. long, of an extinct saurian, thought to be an ichthyosaurus.

The stone, of the Lias formation, in which the fossil is encased, was, presumably, brought from the nearby Cotswolds, when the church was built early in the twelfth century. It seems unlikely that the Norman quarrymen would recognise a fossil as such, or that, if they did, they would be interested enough to transport the remains with such care as to preserve the skeleton intact.

Its presence in the church porch may, therefore, be due to accident rather than design, and what we now see may be only a fragment of the original. Certainly, one looks in vain for the characteristic huge eye-socket of the ichthyosaurus, but the vertebral column, pelvic girdle and paddles can be clearly discerned.

It is, however, a curious coincidence that, looking down on the prehistoric monster, from one of the capitals of the fine Norman doorway, is a reptile's head, carved in stone, with a long snout and formidable teeth, forming one of the finials of the hood-mould, which bears a striking resemblance to the head of an ichthyosaurus!

As some visitors to the church have found difficulty in tracing the outline of the fossil, I took the opportunity of a recent visit to the district to make a heelball rubbing. The accompanying illustration is from a photograph on a reduced scale.

The good lady who happened to be cleaning the church at the time remarked emphatically: "I don't believe in it, and I never have believed in it." But when she saw the completed rubbing, she seemed inclined to change her opinion.

I have not been able to ascertain who first identified the remains as those of a fossil saurian, but there is an allusion to them, as such, in the *Proceedings of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* for September 2, 1913. The writer says: "How they (the fossil bones) came there I know not."

Perhaps some reader of *COUNTRY LIFE* can throw additional light on this interesting curiosity.—A. E. KNIGHT, *West Didsbury, Manchester, 20.*

### AN UNUSUAL WEIR

SIR,—While on leave I visited Ottery St. Mary, Devon, and saw a circular weir which seemed unusual. One view shows the top of the weir with the mill-stream. The stream is about 15 ft. wide here; the diameter of the cylinder is approximately 8 ft. One cannot get very close to it, but I think that the section through the drum would be something like my drawing.

The other photograph shows the exit of the weir water which passes under a path. It drops about 10 ft. The mill-stream joins the main

stream just below where the photograph was taken.

Is this type of weir very common in any part of the country?—F. KENDALL (Sergt.), *Victoria, S.W.1.*

### IN LEATHLEY CHURCH

SIR,—The door of Staplehurst Church, described and pictured in your issue of June 25, has been compared by antiquarians with a door inside Leathley Church, near Otley, Yorkshire.

This very primitive axe-hewn oaken door is built in the tower arch about 3 ft. above floor level and (like the Staplehurst door) is notable for its array of fine antique wrought iron-work.

A massive door in such a position is unusual: a possible clue is given by the appearance of the tower, which suggests that of a border pele, as if intended for a place of security in times of danger. Such a stronghold would be needed, for instance, when the Scots made their great raid into Wharfedale.

Notice the spy-hole near the top of the door.—J. A. CARPENTER, *Harrogate.*

### BIRDS AND AIR RAIDS

SIR,—In a south-east England district this spring during bursts of heavy gunfire, I strolled into the garden and immediately heard a cuckoo calling softly from a tall chestnut in the adjoining meadow. He was promptly answered by another cuckoo from an old elm on the opposite side of the field, the two birds calling and responding intermittently for quite 10 minutes. It was 2 a.m. with an almost full moon, and I noticed that the calling actually occurred during the brilliance of the gun flashes.

Seeing that the birds had only recently arrived in this country and that it was probably their first experience of an air raid, one wonders whether they had mistaken the light for the dawn!

Previously, one early morning in the same meadow, I had a rather remarkable experience following a heavy overnight blitz. Along the tall, thick hawthorn hedge which skirted one side of the meadow, I picked up eleven dead sparrows all in good condition and bearing no scars that might have determined the cause of death. The old hedge had for years provided a roosting place for a flock of these birds and seeing that they were all picked up on the same side of the hedge, I could only presume that their deaths had been caused by blast. Or might it have been shock?

In another south-east locality the pheasants actually warn us of approaching aircraft and several minutes before one hears the drone of hostile planes, even on the darkest night, an old cock bird will commence to crow, to have his call taken up by other pheasants in the wood. In this locality also I have twice heard skylarks burst into short snatches of song upon rising from the ground during brilliant flashes from gunfire, and on a number of occasions I have listened to the soft trills of roosting hedge-sparrows in similar conditions. Seeing that the species mentioned in this brief account are, in habits, strictly diurnal, one wonders whether they were roused to nocturnal song by the noise of the guns or by the brilliance of the flashes of light. Or were they acting as air-raid wardens in some measure beyond our ken?—G. J. SCHOLEY, 38, *Dysart Avenue, Kingston, Surrey.*

### RARE BIRDS

SIR,—I do not agree with the Editor's comment (July 23) on the purple gallinule and see no reason why it should have been an escape.

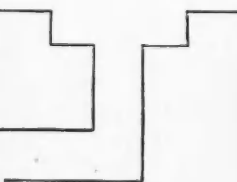
Some years ago a purple gallinule spent a month at Horsey in October and fed at the same spot every day on the pith of candle rush. It was a bird of the year, for its head and neck changed colour from grey to brilliant blue during its stay with me. I made every endeavour, both public and private, to ascertain if it was an escape, and after all there are not many keepers of purple gallinules in England. No one appeared to have lost one, and anyone who has seen a purple gallinule trying to fly in a gale of wind will realise that it might easily be blown great distances if caught in a storm. The risk to young gallinules of being blown out of Spain seems to me a real one, and some of them might well arrive in these islands.—ANTHONY BUXTON, *Horsey Hall, near Great Yarmouth.*

[We are glad to publish Major Buxton's remarks on the purple gallinule and hope that the Hebridean specimen was a truly wild example, but we are not alone in thinking that the probabilities are it was an aviary escape, as will be seen in the latest edition of Witherby's *Handbook of British Birds*. Here it is stated: "examples of the purple gallinule have been captured from time to time . . . but these had probably escaped from captivity or semi-captivity."—Ed.]



### THE DOOR IN LEATHLEY CHURCH

See letter: *In Leathley Church*



### THE CIRCULAR WEIR AT OTTERY ST. MARY

(Above) A section of the weir. (Right) The exit of the weir water

See letter: *An Unusual Weir*

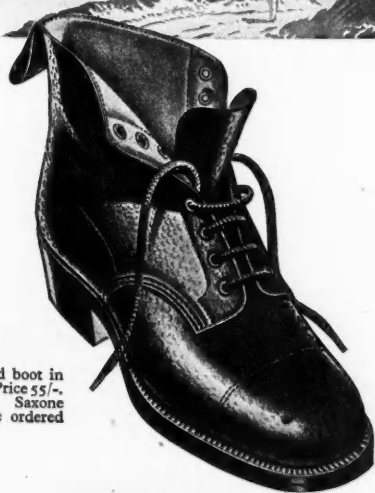


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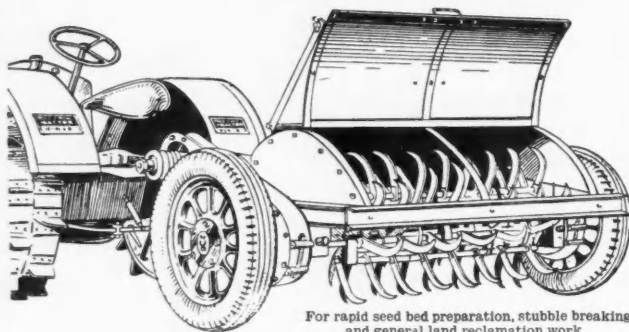
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# CASE

## FARMING NOTES

### MODERN FERTILISERS AND TOO LONG STRAW

WRITING at the time when about half the corn in my district is cut and about half remains uncut—I cannot say standing

—I am impressed more, than ever before by the need for shorter- and stiffer-strawed varieties that will stand up to modern fertilisers. Failing them there must be a considerable modification of the fertiliser dressings generally advised. If the summer is dry, as it has been in East Anglia, no doubt the ordinary wheats like Red Standard, or Squarehead's Master as it is known alternatively, will stand well to harvest and not embarrass the farmer with an excess of straw even though he has applied fertilisers generously or his land is naturally in high condition. But given a growing season and generous use of fertilisers on reasonably good land, Red Standard is liable to grow altogether too bulky. The binder makes very slow progress round the field and the war-time binder twine, spun much thinner than usual, is constantly breaking. The heavy crops have proved too much for some of our older binders and, judging by the state of the local agricultural engineer's shop, breakdowns have been very frequent. The spring oats have also made an extraordinary bulk of straw. In some crops there is much more weight in the straw than in the heads, and cutting has been a very slow business. For three days I have seen two binders struggling with a 10-acre field of spring oats, lying all ways, and the job of cutting is not done yet. I am glad it is not my field.

AN interesting observation is made by a West-Riding farmer who points out that wheat has done particularly well on the fields that were in flax last year. The same point was made to me by a Wiltshire farmer recently. This is in direct conflict with the old opinion that flax robs the land and leaves little but poverty for the succeeding crop. The explanation is, I think, that we know better now the requirements of each crop and supply them pretty fully out of the fertiliser bag. Flax needs potash and gets a special allocation. If it did not the potash reserves in the soil might well be exhausted and the following crop might be starved. There is another point about flax. The crop is cleared early and the field can be ploughed in good time. A bastard fallow through August is a good preparation for wheat.

WAR agricultural committees are now turning their attention to the improvement of livestock production as well as crop production. There is scope here; more scope now, I think, than for further improvement in crop production. As I have already noted, the use of fertilisers can be pushed too hard when we do not use corn varieties that will stand up to lavish treatment in a growing season. What the committees are now doing is to make a preliminary survey of all the herds in their counties, paying particular attention to winter milk yields. The output from some herds is very low, which suits neither the nation, which wants more winter milk, nor the pocket of the farmer, who depends largely on the milk cheque for his income. Where yields are reasonably good, winter milk pays better than summer milk, all the war-time increases in price having been added in the winter months. There has already been a campaign to get more heifers and cows bulled in the middle of winter so as to have them calving in the autumn and in full profit through the winter. This will

no doubt lead to increased production this coming winter. Even so there is room for improvement in the milking quality of many herds. The bulls in use are not as good as they should be judged by milk standards. By using a bull with a reasonable milk pedigree on a herd that averages 450 or 500 gallons in the year it is possible gradually to pull up the yield of the heifers bred so that in three or four years the average moves up to 550 and progressively to 600 and 700 gallons a year.

ONE trouble at the moment is the shortage of dairy and dual-purpose bulls that have good milk yield records behind them. The war agricultural committees are to encourage farmers with milk-recorded herds to pick out more bull calves from their best cows and rear them. If they cannot rear them they are asked to sell them for rearing and the committee will either take them over or find a buyer. Most of the committees have some farms in hand now and they will rear bull calves there. Mr. Hudson saw for himself the other day what the Wiltshire Committee are doing in this way. When more of these dairy-bred bulls are available the bull licensing standards will no doubt be raised to require a milk record behind every cow that is to be used in a dairy herd. I have seen plenty of dairy bulls that will give a good account of themselves by breeding heifers that will do better at the pail than their dams and breed male calves that are worth rearing for feeding. This may sound like an advertisement for the Red Poll breed. There are Shorthorns that will do as well and as the great majority of our commercial herds are of Shorthorn type it is better Shorthorn bulls we want above all else to raise the efficiency of our dairy industry. Some people I know can get wonderful results by crossing Shorthorn cows with Friesians, Ayrshires and Guernseys, but for the everyday farmer the best is to stick to the breed he has and determine to develop its best qualities.

SOME of the main-crop potatoes are ripening off very quickly and the tops are yellow already. Generally we get some useful growth into September and it is this that swells the tubers and gives tons to the acre. The dry season is no doubt the cause of the premature ripening, and I suspect lack of farm-yard manure to give body to the soil and sustain growth through a dry time. Potatoes that follow a ley or where yard manure was applied are holding out well and should give quite satisfactory yields, but it is a much more common sight now to find fields that can make little more growth because the tops are dying off fast. Except in the far west there has not been much trouble with early blight. Blight coming now is not so serious if the infection can be kept away from the tubers at lifting time. Spraying the tops to kill the spores is worth while if blight gets a hold. This prevents the spores falling on tubers and starting infection in the pit.

RECRUITING for the Land Army has been stopped for the time being. It is to be hoped that the ban will not be prolonged. While the aircraft factories want all the women now available and this must be recognised as a priority demand, there is still a big unsatisfied demand for women milkers. Mr. Bevin can help by allowing the W.L.A. to recruit girls who are likely to make good milkers and who volunteer for this particular work.

CINCINNATUS.

## THE ESTATE MARKET

LORD HAREWOOD'S  
SALE OF EGERTON

THE HON. MRS. MACDONALD-BUCHANAN has purchased from the Earl of Harewood his splendid establishment at Newmarket, Egerton House and stud premises and land.

Egerton is one of the chief properties in this country in connection with bloodstock breeding and racing. It is close to the July Course, and a prominent feature of the Newmarket-Cambridge Road. Famous horses that have added to the reputation of Egerton include Barham and Mahmoud.

Besides the fine residence, the sale includes the racing stables where the horses of three kings have been trained, among them a couple of winners of the Derby. The trainer's house and the private training gallops also change hands, as well as the stud farm, of which the Aga Khan holds a lease. The entire property is very compact.

The Hon. Mrs. Macdonald-Buchanan retained Mr. Norman J. Hodgkinson (Messrs. Bidwell and Sons) to negotiate the purchase. It may be recalled that in the Estate Market page of COUNTRY LIFE on May 7 we announced that she had sold Westland Lodge and the holding of 190 acres, known as the Westland Stud Farm, four miles from Goodwood. It was formerly part of the late Lord Woolavington's Lavington Park estate, and among the noted horses that had been kept there were Owen Tudor, Coronach and Easton.

THE EARL OF YARBOROUGH'S  
FARMS

OUTLYING parts of the Brocklesby estate have been sold, by order of the Earl of Yorbrough, in order to defray death duties. Eleven lots came under the hammer of Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff, and nine of them changed hands, for an aggregate sum of £62,200.

Brocklesby has long been regarded as one of the best-managed landed properties, and, if there has been one thing more than another that has distinguished it, those who are interested in timber production would say it is its woodlands. "Science and practice" have been perfectly combined there. The present sale presented only a small extent of woodland for the attention of buyers, and this consisted of about 120 acres, on the heavily wooded hill adjacent to Croxby Pond. Here most of the trees are ash, with a few beech and sycamores. Croxby Pond covers between 15 and 16 acres. This lot realised £18,500, the timber doubtless accounting for a large proportion.

All the outlying freeholds in the offer lie within a few miles of Immingham, Hull and Grimsby. The 11 lots, 3,475 acres, produce £2,132 a year, and pay £234 in tithe, and £31 in land tax. Prices realised included £15,600, for East Halton Grange and Chase Hill Farm, at North Killingholme; £7,000, for the 398 acres of Rothwell Grange Farm; £7,600, for Rothwell Villa Farm, 467 acres; and £7,750 for Lake Farm, Croxby, 496 acres—in this as in the case of the other holdings named, the acreage differed somewhat from the details in the particulars, extra land being apparently comprised in some instances.

## A FANTASTIC TALE

OVER COURT, the 16th-century stone house at Bisley, near Stroud, has been sold with 18 acres, by Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley and Messrs. Bruton, Knowles and Co. An odd tradition (quoted at great length by the agents) is that the little

Princess Elizabeth died at Over Court, on the eve of a visit by Henry VIII, and that a small boy was hurriedly dressed up as a girl and substituted for her, and that he played his part so well that in due course he became the sovereign who is still toasted at Gray's Inn as "Good Queen Bess." The only necessary comment on that story is that the most recent, and a very painstaking, topography of Gloucestershire mentions as a probability that Queen Elizabeth stayed one night at the house, on her way from London to the Midlands, in 1595.

THE "10 PER CENT."  
TRADITION

IN the far-off days of unrestricted dealings in real estate, agents and owners used sometimes to talk of 10 per cent. as a possible and even a not unusual return. When they did so it was not to a gross but a net return that they referred, and often they were right, of course, generally speaking, in relation to urban ventures. Even in respect of property in London, and other great centres of population and industry, 10 per cent. was a great deal more than most fair-minded owners cared to aim at obtaining. It was admittedly an exorbitant yield, such as could only be contemplated in conditions that the average property owner had no desire to see either in his own or his tenants' interests. A certain amount of insecurity and risk characterised the tenure of some of the premises on which 10 per cent. could be got, and there might be circumstances, concerning the purchase or the management of the property, that hardly accorded with a long view of the fundamental rights and duties of ownership. Now and then, undoubtedly, special features of the transaction enabled a buyer of premises to make 10 per cent. or even more, by effecting a change in the structural arrangement or the use of a property, and the resultant income was obtainable from tenants who had no reason to complain of exorbitance of the terms of their tenancies.

## HIGH RENTS

TOO often a very high yield merely connoted the wringing of an excessive rent out of the impecuniosity and necessity of comparatively helpless individuals. No inconsiderable part of the net income was represented by neglecting the adequate maintenance of the premises, and it is an unfortunate fact that the highest incomes were frequently seen in the case of downright slums. In other instances a high return was procured by buying business premises and raising old-term rents against long-established occupiers, who either could not afford to acquire the freehold or long lease, or who, through lack of foresight and enterprise, neglected to purchase. To-day the owner of property is lucky if he can get a clear five per cent. on his capital, and much of the best-regulated real property returns no more than three to four per cent.

## GROUND RENT SALES

FREEHOLD ground rents, with reversions over 40 years hence, are saleable at or over 22 years' purchase. Less distant reversions are, of course, fetching more, and, whether remote or near, the reversions are still an important element, though there is not the old absolute certainty that inroads on reversionary rights will not take place. Be that as it may, competition for freehold ground rents continues to be keen, and, except when executors have to sell, few good parcels come under the hammer.

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# MEMORIES OF GROUSE DAYS

By CAPTAIN J. B. DROUGHT

**F**EW of us will shoot grouse this year except in day-dreams. And even day-dreams do not come at will, amid the clang and clamour of a great war factory. But sometimes lately when the long day's work is done, I have dug out one of my old game books, and something trivial (a note maybe against some incident long since forgotten) has led me back across the years to scenes of many Twelfths—a Galway hillside looking out to Aran in the distance—Maunstrasna and the Connemara Bens—Fermanagh's soft and gentle beauty, mingling with the grandeur which is Donegal.

And in every dreamland picture there are grouse, grouse calling from the high tops through the early morning mists; rising to setters carved like statues out of stone; bursting like a shrapnel shell above a line of butts or diving down the hill face to be lost among the turf stacks.

Should you ask me to conjure up a Twelfth of August typical of what is best in sport, I could not do it. There are too many of them. Casting back more than 40 years, I still count among my happiest recollections long tramps on the Mayo bogs, where I learnt the alphabet of field-craft from a generation of keepers long since passed on. But I

1,600 ft., and to the south the Connemara Mountains cut the sky. Where mountain and sea joined a thin mist hung, so that one could scarcely separate the purple from the green. For miles around there was scarcely a sign of life, save for a wisp of smoke rising from some tiny cottage and a few stray mountain sheep. Nothing but a vast expanse of moor and bog, broken by a chain of lakes, from which little streams came tumbling down the foothills.

Lonely beyond belief are those outposts of the west, yet nowhere is the sternness and gentleness of nature more subtly blended. When the sun rolls back the mists from the high-tops there is no colouring like to that of the Connemara mountains.

Well could one imagine that in this wilderness one might see a deal more game than one would ever get close enough to shoot. For the bog across which we lined out first was an archipelago of promontories and islands from which the reed beds stood out like tall spears. When the surrounding moor is parched the snipe congregate in these hollows, and as we squelched into the soft ooze a wisp went away 70 yards ahead. Two or three mallard were resting on the nearest of the lakes, and with them a bunch of teal. Despite an ultra-careful stalk, the full duck were only too

*Mr. Howard Spring is on holiday, and will resume his articles next month*

could not rise to those adventures now. There were no motors then—at least not on the roads to County Mayo—and you rose before dawn to drive 20 miles or more on an outside car and shot all day and then camped out in a shepherd's hut in the hills with a candle to light you to a bed of rugs and a tot of whiskey to "keep the fever off." But they were good days all the same, for we were young, and discomfort did not seem to matter; if indeed we ever realised how uncomfortable we really were. Nor did we ever visualise big bags. That never seemed to matter a great deal.

With all due deference, I greatly doubt whether men, who transfer their posteriors from shooting ponies to shooting seats and there stay put, get as much kick out of the proceedings as those who walk a bit and then drive a bit and come in with 15 to 20 brace. I am not such a fool as to sneer at sport *de luxe* now that the weaknesses of the flesh have found me out, and what little I have experienced of grouse driving on the grand scale has taught me a becoming respect for those who acquit themselves with distinction. Only I always have preferred, and always shall prefer, the smaller days.

One, for instance, in the year before the war; a day of sunshine and of shadow when every now and then a mist came down and blotted out the landscape. The charm of that day's shooting lay in its uncertainty. We never could be quite sure what was coming next, the more so because in the shifting mists birds assumed all shapes and sizes, and very often not until they were hurtling overhead could we be certain whether we were shooting at a mallard or a grouse.

We climbed until, from a thousand feet or more above sea level, we could trace the outline of the Killarney and the faint smudge of Inisturk far out in the Atlantic. Behind, the great mass of Mweelrea rose to another

well aware of danger, and long before we reached the comparative cover of the reeds they sprang into the upper air without even a preliminary circle. The teal, true to type, were more confiding. Rising, they just skimmed the reeds for 50 yards and turned down the river still flying low. Most of them were out of shot, but two birds swerving streaked past in a flash of grey and emerald and the outside gun accepted the challenge with a pretty right and left. And now we were at the highest level of the shoot, not sorry to have the collar-work behind us, and some "various" as a make-weight to five brace of grouse in the bag, before tackling the knee-high heather of the moor on our homeward way.

It is said that grouse can always be driven, and in a sense this is true, but whether in country like this they can be persuaded to go over the guns, and, if so, at how many hundreds of feet over them, is a question which can never be concisely answered. The only kind of impromptu driving possible is to watch your pack and stalk them, and even then you will rarely get very near, though often near enough if the beaters disturb them before they are aware of danger between themselves and the lower bog.

In August you often draw this high ground blank, for then the grouse are feeding in the oat patches lower down in the late afternoon. And then a pair of field glasses is the substitute for a setter to search out from afar the lines of approach to those folds in the ground, which harbour birds sharp-eyed yet in no way seeking to hide themselves.

Hunting in couples is always the best way to achieve surprise. We split our party and almost at once the two guns on the far side of the valley startle a pack, which swing across, heading straight in our direction. There is time neither to hide nor crouch, and the only chance (and it is surprising how often it comes off)

By the author of "Elizabeth Fry"

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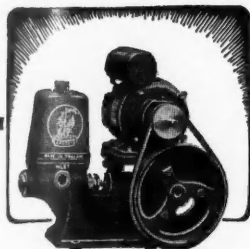
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The dogs fit

is to stand motionless. But the setters, being something less than human, are not so statuesque, and then the grouse swing away; the dogs' movements startle up a flock of duck, and both pass unsaluted out of range. Still rounding a spur, a covey of eight grand birds are reduced to three before they get up such a pace as to take them clean past the lower gun, before he even realises their approach.

We take a cast along the moor's edge and two grouse rising very wild are missed. But soon we take toll of three good coveys and one wonders whether a red-letter day has arrived at last. But it is a good hour before we see another or indeed anything else, except a hare and a mallard which, coming out of the blue, gives my companion a pretty crossing shot. The last hour, strange to say, is a tale of disappointment. Our homeward way takes us past several oat patches on the sheltered side of the mountain, ideal rendezvous for the evening meal. Three grouse are easily accounted for, and we should have had

four times that number had the birds been less elusive and the shooting less erratic, though, owing to the hilly ground, many are unsafe to fire at as they break between the guns and the beaters and come forward at head height.

Still this is a day marked with red letters in my game book. True, we had fewer than 40 birds, but among them were six varieties, and this alone in my mind makes for half the charm of shooting in the wilds. Moreover, say what you will, it is largely on elemental influence that the fascination of sport depends. No man can be insensitive to his surroundings; the joys of days like these lie in far horizons; the blue distances of hills, the scent of peat and dew-drenched fern—that and the excitement of chances taken and chances missed; the good-fellowship of old friends, the companionship of well-loved wayward dogs.

What man can ask more than that at no far distant day we may enjoy them once again?

## SOME BOOKS ON NATURAL HISTORY

THE queer things of Nature have, it is obvious, ever had a fascination for Mr. Eric Parker, and his long association with *The Field*, of which he was editor for many years, brought him many strange stories from a number of correspondents. In this volume—*Oddities of Natural History* (Seeley Service, 12s. 6d.)—he has gathered together a great deal of information on a variety of curious topics, beginning with adders and ending with wrynecks. From this it will be realised that the matter is arranged alphabetically, which makes reference to any particular subject quite easy. For instance the reviewer, wishing to read about hedgehogs, had only to turn over the pages and arrive at the subject, which is illustrated by an excellent photograph from the camera of Miss Phyllis Kelway, who has other good animal portraits in the book. Mr. Parker says he has long had an affection, mingled with respect, for the hedgehog, though "Hedgehogs, considering their unlikeness to any other British mammal, seem to have attracted comparatively little interest among naturalists. Less has been written about them than you might expect; perhaps less is known." However, he goes on to consider certain interesting questions concerning the hedgehog, in particular that old one, do hedgehogs suck the milk from cows as they lie asleep in the fields at night? In days gone by practically everyone, and certainly all countrymen, believed the reply was in the affirmative, but the sceptical modern naturalist inclines to the view that it is merely an "old wife's story." However, Mr. Parker keeps an open mind on the matter, pointing out that on such questions proof which would satisfy a court of law is hard to obtain. Mr. Parker has much to record as to the food of the fox and other matters, such as the behaviour of frogs in winter and the age of geese, quoting cases of ganders attaining 60 and even 80 years of age. We trust that these venerable birds died peaceably and were not the victims of a mistake such as the error that brought a veteran of our acquaintance to the Christmas table. He was mistaken for his son! The error was, alas! fully apparent when the carving-knife got busy, for he was so tough that he could not be eaten. But to return to Mr. Parker's book, the reader will find in it much curious matter and many accounts of natural history oddities that will afford him interesting and amusing reading.

MR. OLIVER J. PIKE has long been known as an expert photographer of birds and beasts. He began his work in those early days when the Kearton brothers, Miss Turner, Douglas English, Riley Fortune and others were showing how

valuable was the camera in the study of Nature and of bird life in particular. Many of these pioneers concentrated on birds, and it was as a bird photographer that Mr. Oliver Pike made his name, but in fact there is hardly any branch of Nature photography, both still and cine, that Mr. Pike does not know from A to Z. In this latest book—*Nature and the Camera* (The Focal Press, 13s. 6d.)—he has given us the fruits of his long experience and in it he explains every branch of the subject, beginning with cameras, filters, films, plates, etc., continuing with flower and domestic animal photography, and then proceeding via zoo work to photography in the wild, both of birds and mammals. The admirable photographs with which it is illustrated will afford the tyro much help, as will the excellent diagrams.

THREE new books—*Wild Life in Britain*, by F. Fraser Darling (Collins, 4s. 6d.); *Hedgerow and Field*, by Brian Vesey Fitzgerald (Chapman and Hall, 7s. 6d.); *The Life of the Robin*, by David Lack (Witherby, 7s. 6d.)—all deal with the wild life of Britain, but are very different in their approach to it. Dr. Fraser Darling's survey covers not only the fauna of the British Isles, but the country and its naturalists. The subject is a vast one, but the author in a comparatively limited space has handled it well, giving us an excellent picture of the beasts, birds and many of the other creatures that people our land and its shores, also of those who have been outstanding in the study of them. There is one small slip that no doubt will be corrected in future issues, namely, the reference to the island of Grassholm, "with its 6,000 gannets." This surely should read "6,000 pairs of gannets." When non-breeding birds are added to the count it is probable the correct figure is in the region of 15,000 gannets. Mr. Vesey Fitzgerald's book is also wide in scope with regard to birds, beasts, fishes and insects, but is written from the standpoint of those who, knowing little of Nature, want to learn what to look for during their country walks. It is illustrated with photographs (the frontispiece being an adorable snapshot of a red squirrel), but it is unfortunate that a dormouse illustration should show these woodland mammals seated on heads of wheat. And now we come to Mr. David Lack's intensive study of the robin which must be read to be thoroughly appreciated. It is a painstaking and valuable piece of work, which throws much light not only on the behaviour of this peculiar bird but on the springs of conduct of other species and of bird life in general. However it must be read to be appreciated and we can say no more here.

F. P.

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PHOTOGRAPHS DENES

**S**UITS, taking 18 precious coupons, must be bought to last for ever and a day. Fortunately, the new ones for the autumn and winter are so pleasant that you will want to wear them as long as they will hold together and so well tailored that they will keep their smartness to the end of a long life. To my mind, the most useful, as well as the most attractive of all, are the thickish tweeds in check or herring-bone in two shades of grey or a neutral brown. Dorville show a whole series of them in oyster colour over-checked or chevroned in bold lines of a mid and a clerical dark grey. There are many coloured suits being shown as well, in quite bright colours too, but the outstanding suits in all the collections are the neutral homespun. They have the merit of going with practically anything, and a clever knitter can pull down all her old bright sweaters and cardigans and have great fun reknitting them into two-fronted sweaters, into sweaters with Fair Isle yokes or collars or fronts, into patchwork sweaters, scarves and tams, into

loosely crocheted squares where each line is a different colour, into Fair Isle mitts and socks. These neutral tweeds can stand up to the most dashing of bright accessories.

Suit jackets slip on easily like a man's; skirts have shed their pleats in many instances. That is the styling news for prospective buyers of autumn tailor-mades. The jackets are definitely becoming with their long easy lines and snug waists that are nipped in by intricate seaming and darts. The plain skirt with four or six seams and a slightly flared hemline looks newer this winter than the one with a pleated panel in front, but both are shown, the former mostly as line-checked tweeds, the pleated ones for the plain town suits in Cheviot tweeds, facecloth or jersey. Some suits have a double inverted pleat in the centre front and the back that swings out fanwise when walking and gives a pretty fluid movement to the skirt. Dorville show an attractive herring-bone tweed with this austerity version of a swing skirt, the kind of thing that used to be pleated

# AUTUMN

## Silhouettes

(Left) A fourteen-coupon suit because the jacket is unlined. Black jersey piped with geranium pink. Harrods

(Below) Lincoln green cut velvet jacket and a four-seamed tweed skirt piped with the velvet. This is a jacket that can be worn with almost anything. Harrods



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all the way round in the far-away days. In the Jenner collection there is a striped suit featuring the gored skirt. It is in mixed colours with the stripes worked in two ways on the basqued jacket and the pockets tilted to a slant. Dorville's cardigan jackets in smooth, bright cloth over shirt-waist frocks with open necklines are charming too, and make a most adaptable kind of outfit. These woollen dresses often have the new, plain three-quarter-length sleeve and apron fullness in front. The jacket is checked, with the base in the same bright colour as the plain frock; pansy blue checked in grey and tan with a pansy frock is one effective combination shown by Dorville. On town suits, Dorville show scalloped tops on the skirts which are cut high above the waistline, almost a corselet line. The scalloping is repeated on the top edges of the two pockets on the jacket.

Boat-shaped necklines and yokes, or shallow boat-shaped double seaming are shown on many of the clothes. Coats and fine woollen dresses with these yokes are gathered quite fully below and take the seamed, gored skirts fitting closely to the figure and without a wrinkle at the neat waist. Some skirts have deep, unpressed pleats back and front in the centre. Dresses are usually in bright, bold colours, the coats in soft, smooth woollens. Dinner dresses, both ankle-length and short, have the boat-shaped *décolletage* scooped out and often edged with a piping of velvet, a line of sequins or jet, or a narrow plait of a bright contrast. Suits with boat-shaped double seams set across the shoulders are in vivid woollens or in pliable tweeds in fancy herring-bone patterns. Jersey is also used. The silhouette

is full and bloused at the top and pouched over a tiny waist.

\*\*\*

**W**INTER suit jackets button high up on the chest. Many collars are adjustable so that they can be worn buttoned right up to the chin and without a sweater, or open at the throat with a blouse collar showing. Tweed jackets are faced with plain; plain



A Coles walking shoe in reversed calf with punching and a half tongue

jackets often have gay pipings or the pockets and collar in a contrast in colour or material. Jackets with a diagonal fastening are news. Cut velvet jackets with a toning tweed gored skirt piped at the hem with the velvet can play all kinds of roles in a wardrobe, so are a good buying proposition. Jersey suits with unlined jackets save coupons as they take only 14 against the usual 18.

The "jelly-bag" cap vies with all kinds of tams as the best companion for these

debonair clothes with their swing skirts. Jenners of Edinburgh are featuring a "jelly-bag" cap which can be rolled into the corner of a very small bag and can be worn in 25 different ways. Fixed to the top of the head and hanging down the back it makes a snood; pulled a little farther on it looks like a pirate's hat with one end dangling over the ear. With a few more folds it becomes all kinds of turbans. The small felt bonnets which

Jenners also show are nearly as adaptable. The prettiest way is to wear your hair fairly smooth and peak the cap so that it looks like a little girl's. The many felt tams are worn at all angles and are nearly all sizes, from large, flappy pancakes with quills to neat, round caps like those of the W.R.N.S. All these hats and caps require a fairly short and a smooth *coiffure*. They look wrong with a mane of hair hanging down the back. Women with long enough hair are braiding it neatly on the top; the medium-length hair is brushed up and arranged in a slanting line at the back of the head with waves. The number of upward *coiffures* of all kinds is distinctly on the increase. Tiny bows and combs are worn in the hair. The bows poise like butterflies over the ears, combs sweep it up at the back—handsome antique ones, as no new ones are being made. Bows of ribbon match shirts or gloves or both. They are much worn by girls with their hair down à la Veronica Lake, combed smoothly over the forehead. A bow, each side, just like a little girl's, is most fashionable. These bows are worn with the plainest of tailor-mades and with cotton frocks, not so much at night.

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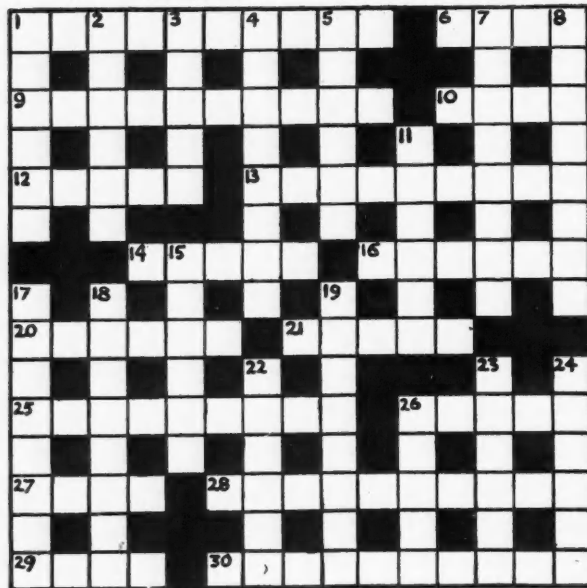


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## CROSSWORD No. 708

Two guineas will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions (in a closed envelope) must reach "Crossword No. 708, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," not later than the first post on Thursday, August 26, 1943.

This competition does not apply to the United States.



Name .....  
(Mr., Mrs., etc.)

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**SOLUTION TO No. 707.** The winner of this Crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of August 13, will be announced next week.

**ACROSS.**—1, Mock turtle; 6, Zinc; 9, Philistine; 10, Span; 12, Plunge; 13, Rarer; 16 and 18, Fortune telling; 19 and 21, Licking the dust; 22, Colin; 23, Ranger; 27, Iran; 28, Windermere; 29, Nash; 30, Skyscraper. **DOWN.**—1, Mops; 2, Clip; 3, Trill; 4, Retinue; 5, Longest; 7, Impervious; 8, Congregate; 11, Grille; 14, Affliction; 15, Truckloads; 17, Unions; 20, Garrick; 21, Tenedos; 24, Error; 25, Weep; 26, Wear.

### ACROSS.

1. "And give to airy nothing  
A local — and a name."  
—Shakespeare (10)
6. To do this go back with the tide (4)
9. Seclusion (10)
10. Not the speed of the postage (4)
12. Did the sight of it make the cow slip? (5)
13. "Set danger" (anagr.) (9)
14. We and she are the object for him (5)
16. "Hail to thee, — Spirit!  
Bird thou never wert."—Shelley (6)
20. His tale is of votes (6)
21. The gaol-bird has escaped (5)
25. Building material not requiring careful handling? (9)
26. You can change later (5)
27. High up, the Thames is twice (4)
28. Cathedral on a hill? (two words, 4, 6)
29. Stones (4)
30. An East Coast resort (10)

### DOWN.

1. School with an agricultural name (6)
2. Pound: but it is edible (6)
3. Trees in abrupt form (5)
4. Well, Bach's *Klavier* (8)
5. Just the opposite of plain (6)
7. You can play them without sitting in them (8)
8. "Least red" (anagr.) (8)
11. One kind of field, one kind of deer (6)
15. Look at the way the waters are troubled (6)
17. Bird with a fishy end (8)
18. Silt (8)
19. One half of a literary partnership (8)
22. Is it food for an artist? (6)
23. How to make charts stiff (6)
24. Montrose was one (6)
26. Grey—like the blackcock's la y? (5)

The winner of Crossword No. 706 is

Mr. R. P. C. Mutte,  
St. Edmund Hall, Oxford.

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